METRO / A23

Rep. Amelita Villarosa's son-in-law found dead in Pasig City condo

SPORTS / A29

Henin razes Williams sisters' final scenario

WORLD / A26

All 8 suspects in UK terror threats medical professionals

LIFESTYLE / E1

Auggie Cordero emerges from his hermitage after 13 years and shows why he's still emperor of fashion

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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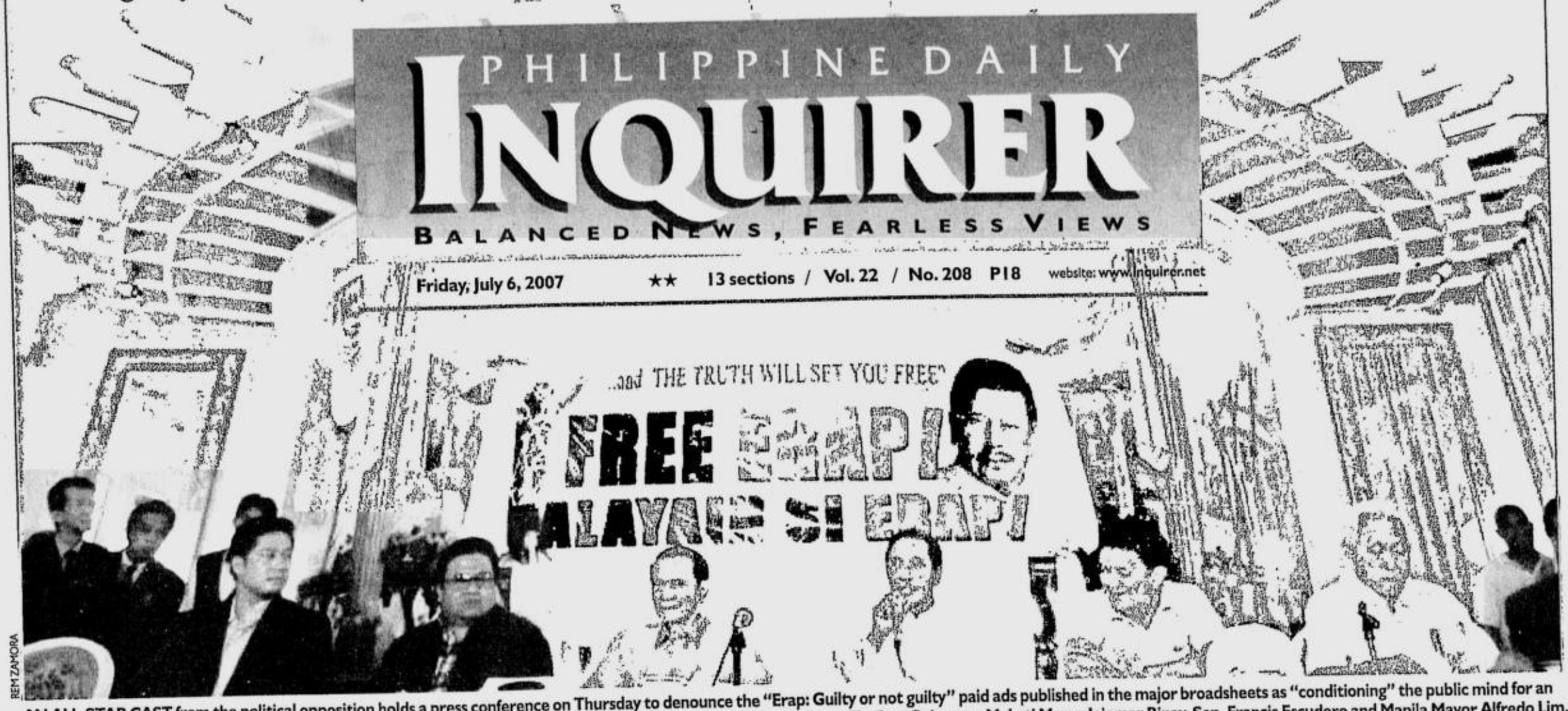

REM ZAMORA

AN ALL-STAR CAST from the political opposition holds a press conference on Thursday to denounce the "Erap: Guilty or not guilty" paid ads published in the major broadsheets as "conditioning" the public mind for an Estrada conviction. Speaking for the defense are, from left, Adel Tamano, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Sen. Francis Escudero and Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim.

Guingona: Free Estrada

Intel sources tag Isafp in Jonas kidnap

By Alcuin Papa

A UNIT WITHIN THE INTELLIGENCE SERvice of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) is responsible for the disappearance of activist Jonas Burgos, according to an intelligence agent.

Another source, an investigator familiar with Burgos' case, confirmed that the inquiry into the case was leading to the door of military intelligence. This runs counter to a recent statement of Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, commanding general of the Army, that "elements" of the Left were involved in the abduction of Burgos on April 28.

Asked to comment, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. expressed disbelief at the claim of Isafp involvement in the abduction.

"Wow, fantastic! Why would Isafp do

INTEL/ A20

THE BALL IS IN HIS COURT: At the Presidential Security Group's 109th anniversary, Esperon plays ball to inaugurate its new basketball court. LYN RILLON

From 'I accuse' to 'He has found new light'

By Jerome Aning

MAKING A COMPLETE TURNAROUND VIS-À-VIS the man he once accused of "betraying the public trust," former Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. yesterday joined Joseph Estrada's supporters in denouncing a supposed "Malacañang plot" to have the ousted President convicted of plunder by the Sandiganbayan.

"He is a man who has found a new light and a new life. In his own private self, I think he has found the answer; he has new values and he is now a new man," Guingona said.

According to Guingona, Estrada had been in the dumps since he was deposed and arrested for plunder in 2001: "The measure of judging a man is when he is down. He has been down for more than six years."

Guingona was flanked by opposition and pro-Estrada personalities—including Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Senators Jinggoy Estrada and Francis Escudero, Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Ro-

GUINGONA/ A20

GMA adviser Dante Ang linked to 'Erap' ads

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

WHODUNIT?

Who placed and paid for the full-page advertisements—"Erap, Guilty or Not Guilty? *Kailangan Bang May Gulo?*"—in leading newspapers, including the INQUIRER?

This paper's advertising section reported that the ad (costing P176,299.20) was placed on Tuesday at the main INQUIRER office in

GMA ADVISER/ A20

Palace, AFP: Law not about bugging media

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Cynthia D. Balana

MILITARY AND MALACAÑANG officials yesterday allayed fears that authorities would abuse the Human Security Act (HSA), especially its provisions on wiretapping, which they said would be used only against enemies of the state.

Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, said that while the HSA could be abused, enough safeguards were in place to pre-

PALACE/ A21

Italian solon here for Bossi

By Cynthia D. Balana

WHERE'S PROOF OF LIFE?

This was the question raised by the Italian lawmaker, who arrived in Manila yesterday for talks with Philippine authorities on efforts to secure the release of kidnapped Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi.

Margherita Boniver said there was no proof Bossi was alive except for some "hints" from different sources that he was "well."

"Nor do we know who or which group of people abducted him," she said.

Boniver clarified reports that she was in the Philippines to negotiate with the kidnappers, saying it was not part of her mandate as a member of the Italian parliament and a former minister to negotiate with kidnappers.

"I'm here on a diplomatic, political mission of friendship and of reconnaissance to understand with our Filipino counterparts how much have been done, what

ITALIAN/ A21

Cybercops probe Internet scam

By Alcuin Papa and Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

A SPECIAL CYBERCRIME UNIT of the Philippine National Police has started tracking down the perpetrators of the "Francswiss" online scam, one of the Internet-based "Ponzi" investment schemes.

A Ponzi scheme is a fraudulent investment operation that involves paying abnormally high, short-term returns to investors out of the money raised from new investors, rather than from profits generated by any real business.

"We are starting with the website to track down suspects. Even if it is down, there will be footprints through IP addresses," said Chief Supt. Rodolfo "Boogie" Mendoza of the PNP Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management (DIDM).

He said the PNP was capable of conducting a computer forensic investigation.

Already, the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) has a cyber unit that is

CYBERCOPS/ A10

Mexican dislodges Gates as world's richest man

MEXICO CITY—MEXICAN TYcoon Carlos Slim has overtaken Microsoft founder Bill Gates as the richest person on the planet, according to a Mexican financial news website.

Sentido Comun, a website operated by respected journalist Eduardo Garcia, calculated that Slim clinched the No. 1 spot with a fortune of US$67.8 billion at the end of the second quarter of 2007. Garcia placed the wealth of Microsoft Corp. founder Gates at about US$59 billion.

Slim controls Mexico's largest fixed-line telephone company, Telefonos de Mexico (Telmex) and owns other businesses in sectors from construction and music to restaurants and cigarettes.

In April, Forbes magazine reported that Slim had overtaken US investor Warren Buffett to become the world's second-richest person, with holdings of $53 billion. In the same issue, Forbes

MEXICAN/ A10

Chief Justice unfazed by Palace meet

By Leila B. Salaverria and Christine O. Avendaño

IT MAY SEEM LIKE THE MALAcañang-sponsored Mindanao Peace and Security Summit will steal the thunder from the Supreme Court's own summit on extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances, but Chief Justice Reynato Puno does not believe so.

Speaking yesterday with the

CHIEF JUSTICE/ A21

EDWIN BACASMAS

DECK WITH A VIEW: Mayon Volcano in Legazpi City backdrops the runway deck of the USS Peleliu aircraft carrier. The American ship has been ferrying personnel ashore to work in free health clinics for the poor in remote communities, build and repair schools and public facilities. It has also been delivering humanitarian supplies and donations from the US.

US stude downs 66 hot dogs to beat Japanese champ

NEW YORK—IN A showdown that combined drama, daring and indigestion, an American student on Wednesday ended Japanese dominance in the annual Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest.

American Joey Chestnut emerged as the world's hot dog eating champion, knocking off Japanese six-time titlist Takeru

US STUDENT/ A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, JULY 6, 2007

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Second FrontPage

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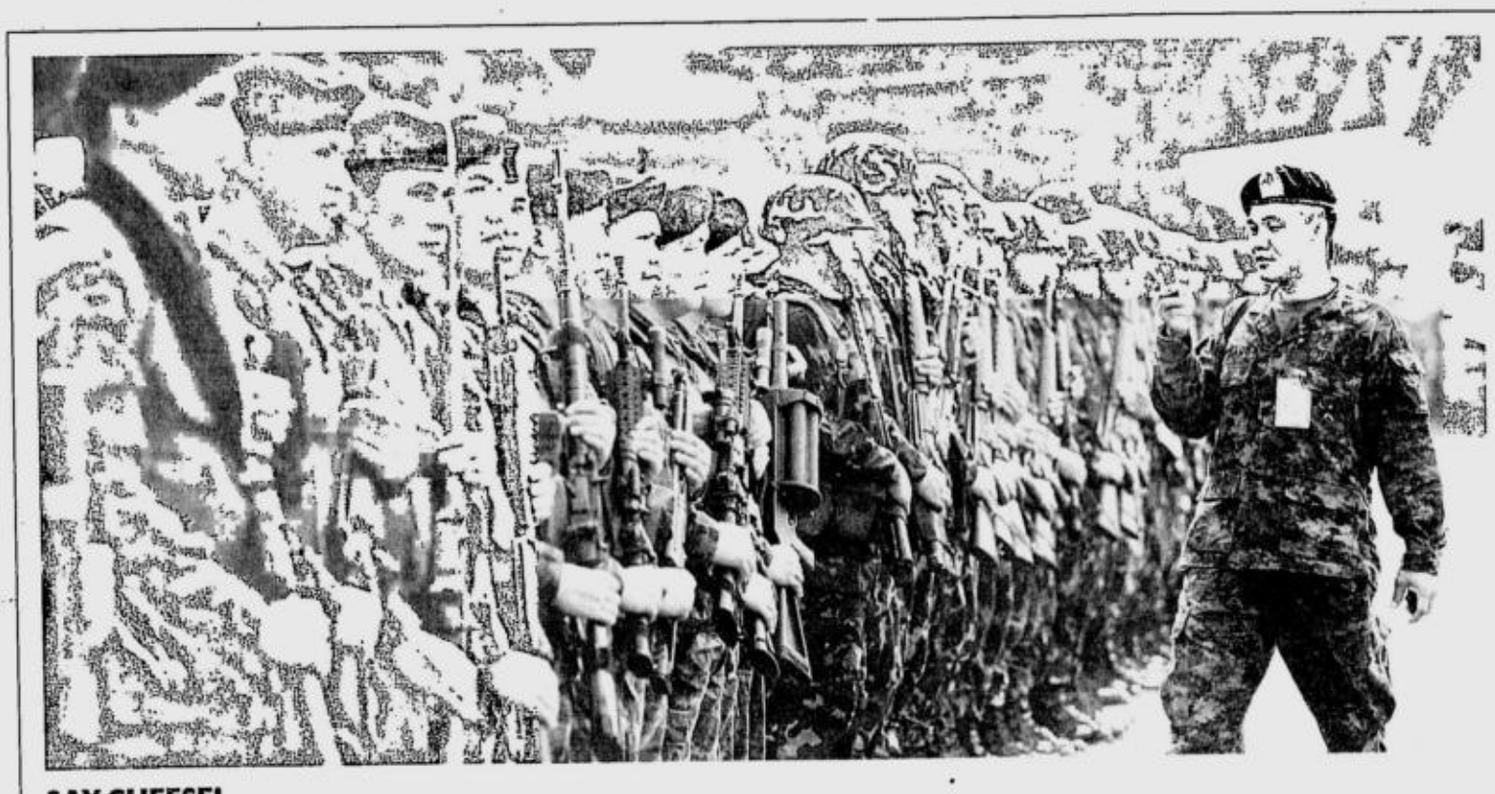
WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/07/05/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

Key election returns arrive



SAY CHEESE!
A platoon leader takes pictures with his camera phone of his soldiers in formation as they await the arrival of Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, who is guest of honor during yesterday's 109th anniversary celebration of the Presidential Security Group.
LYN RILLON

Blood-tainted ERs canvassed today

By Nikko Dizon

THE ELECTION RETURNS FOR WHICH MAGUINdanao schools district supervisor Musa Dimasidsing spilled his blood arrived yesterday at the Commission on Elections headquarters in Intramuros, Manila, to be finally canvassed nearly two months after the May 14 elections and one month after Dimasidsing was shot dead in Pikit, North Cotabato.

Dimasidsing was among those who exposed alleged electoral fraud in Pagalungan town in Maguindanao.

"These were the only original (election) documents that we could get from Maguindanao, unless there was switching," opposition lawyer Leila de Lima told reporters at the Comelec while watching the inventory taking of the uncanvassed election returns from 38 precincts in Pagalungan.

The tallies of the ERs would help determine who between De Lima's client, Genuine Opposition candidate Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III, and Team Unity's Juan Miguel Zubiri would be proclaimed the 12th winning senator.

The canvassing of the ERs is set for 8 a.m. today.

The ERs were in brown envelopes placed inside ballot boxes which were in a sealed metal case.

Unwanted ERs

On June 29, the board of election inspectors (BEIs) of Pagalungan chained the metal case to the gate of the town's police headquarters after the Comelec did not seem interested in retrieving the election documents, Zandra Bai Adil, an independent candidate for councilor in Pagalungan, told reporters.

Adil said that after the elections and with the ERs still not canvassed, the BEIs brought them to the Pagalungan session hall for safekeeping.

She said the BEIs tried to turn the ERs over to the Comelec provincial office in Shariff Aguak which would not take them.

Finally, last week, upon orders of the Comelec en banc, Comelec regional director Michael Abbas was dispatched to Pagalungan to retrieve the ERs.

Only the ERs from four of Pagalungan's 12 barangays had been canvassed so far and the results were used to proclaim the winning local candidates.

Adil said the proclamations were questionable since the four barangays accounted for only some 2,000 votes, a small portion of Pagalungan's more than 10,000 total registered voters.

Adil said the BEIs from the eight other barangays had asked but failed to get Pagalungan election officer Elisa Gasmin to "please receive" the uncanvassed ERs.

Gasmin was reported missing after the proclamation of local candidates.

Before Dimasidsing was murdered, Pagalungan's BEIs were allegedly being forced to sign a petition stating that there were no poll irregularities in the town during the elections.

Dimasidsing refused to sign the petition and fled to Pikit for his safety. He was gunned down there on June 9.

Bais canvass postponed

The canvassing of the provincial certificate of canvass of Bais, Negros Oriental, was postponed yesterday after the document did not arrive. The canvassing was reset to Monday next week.

De Lima told reporters Pimentel would file a motion with the Comelec sitting as the National Board of Canvassers (NBC) seeking clarification of the corrections made on the official tabulated results in the senatorial race.

This came about after the media reported that based on Comelec's latest official tally as of June 29, Pimentel's lead over Zubiri had dwindled to 501 votes.

The media tally on the same date, however, showed that Pimentel was leading by 4,293 votes.

"We would want to observe the tabulation for the sake of transparency because of the close fight (between Pimentel and Zubiri)," De Lima told reporters.

But TU lead lawyer Romulo Macalintal said the tabulation and auditing of the official votes had always been transparent.

"Representatives of candidates have always been free to observe the process. It's unfair to the members of the tabulation committee to be accused of wrongdoing," Macalintal said.

He said that TU's unofficial count as of July 2 showed Zubiri leading Pimentel by 1,323 votes.

By TU's estimate, Zubiri would have 17,000 votes more than Pimentel with the inclusion of the results from Bais and Bogo, Cebu.

With a report from Cynthia D. Balana

Puno: Environment key to human rights

By Leila B. Salaverria

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT IS a vital component of upholding fundamental human rights to life, health and well-being, according to Supreme Court Chief Justice Reynato Puno.

Puno also noted that the ill effects of climate change affect developing countries that are dependent on climate-sensitive industries like agriculture and fishing.

"Happily, it is now beyond argument that environmental protection is indispensable to support and sustain some of the most fundamental of human rights, such as the rights to life, to health and to well-being," Puno told a gathering of justices from neighboring countries at the start of the Asian Justices Forum on the Environment at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

The forum aims to promote regional cooperation in protecting the environment.

According to the Chief Justice, the problems of environmental havoc has been recognized as early as two decades ago, and yet these still persist up to now despite the enactment of laws to arrest these.

"Looking back, concerns for a healthy environment have resulted in the enactment of a plethora of remedial legislations and international covenants throughout the world. Unfortunately, they have not put a brake to the bothersome decline of the environment," he said. "Today, the warning bells on the catastrophe climate change will bring to mankind keep on ringing and ringing loud and clear."

The Chief Justice said it is this growing prejudice to the most vulnerable, the people from the poorest countries, that gave rise to the environmental justice movement.

He said the movement intends to help the poor be given fair treatment by distributing the task of addressing the problems of pollution, dwindling resources and harmful development.

Trillanes may get off with slap on the wrist

SEN. ANTONIO Trillanes IV might end up with just a slap on the wrist for leading hundreds of soldiers in the 2003 Oakwood mutiny—if he agrees to plead guilty to the charges and apologize to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Presidential Legal Counsel Sergio Apostol said the government has not closed its doors to giving clemency to Trillanes.

"The government cannot close the option of a plea bargain, if he apologized, then we must follow the procedure. He could be given lesser penalty even if his crime is more serious than the soldiers," said Apostol, referring to the plea bargain approved by President Arroyo to Trillanes' soldiers. "He is also entitled to a plea bargain if he wants."

It's P148M per law

By Alcuin Papa

HOW MUCH OF TAXPAYERS' MONEY IS used to enact one law?

Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Carlos Padilla said the 13th Congress, that is, the House and the Senate together, had been spending P148 million to enact just one bill into law.

Padilla told a media forum yesterday that the 13th Congress had a budget of P12.5 billion during its three-year term.

In that span, it managed to enact fewer than a hundred measures, or 83 to be exact, he said, in explaining how he arrived at the cost of turning out a law.

On the other hand, the 8th Congress, the first after the lifting of martial law, had a budget of only P4.4 billion, or only about one-third of the budget for the last Congress. But it managed to pass close to a thousand laws, Padilla said.

"It's going to get more expensive to enact a law these days if there will be no reform (in Congress)," Padilla said.

He said lawmakers in the 8th Congress filed around 35,000 bills as against only around 6,000 in the last Congress.

Additionally, he pointed out, the 9th Congress enacted 534 laws, the 10th Congress 573, the 11th Congress 415, and the 12th Congress 173.

"So there is an actual decrease in the volume of bills enacted into law from the 8th Congress up to the 13th Congress. And yet Congress' budget is increasing," he said.

The perennial problem of Congress, Padilla said, was getting the quorum needed to pass laws.

He suggested that the number of deputy speakers, which contributed to the large expenditure of the House, be reduced.

Padilla also said that the the number of committees be lessened. The last Congress had 81 committees witch each one spending between P5 million to P10 million "The more committees you have the more expensive the operation of Congress will be."

He added that contenders for the post of House speaker, including Reps. Jose de Venecia and Pablo Garcia, must be willing to address the rising cost of enacting a law.

"If Congress doesn't do anything about this, especially those who want to be speaker, this might continue and one of these days, the public's trust in Congress will disappear," Padilla said.

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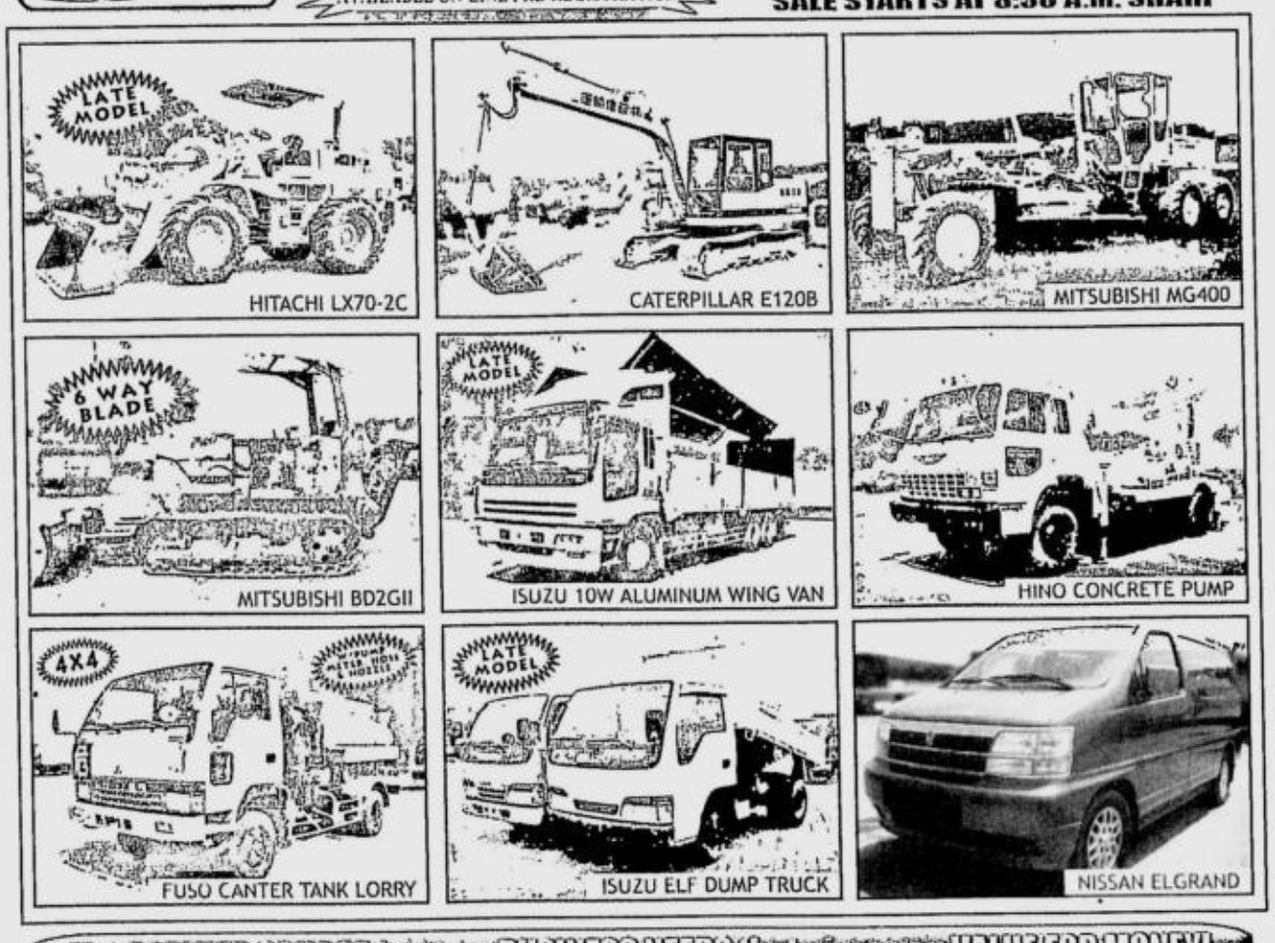

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Taal spa permit revoked

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONment and Natural Resources has revoked the environmental compliance certificate (ECC) issued earlier to the controversial P72-million health spa constructed right along the crater of the scenic volcano in Talisay, Batangas.

Environmental and Natural Resources Secretary Angelo Reyes made the announcement last night after Jung Ang Interventure Corp. failed to submit to his office all pertinent permits and documents to start the Taal Island Spa Resort project.

The DENR gave the Korean firm until the end of office hours yesterday to obtain the permits from other government agencies and submit these to him. However, not one document reached his office, Reyes told reporters.

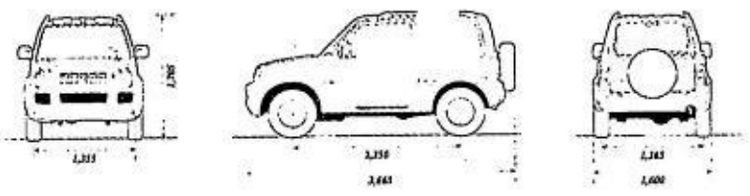
Among the permits required in the ECC are those from the Department of Tourism, the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, the National Water Resources Board and the Protected Area Management Bureau.

"As far as the DENR is concerned, the project is through ... but there is nothing to prevent anybody from reapplying but if [the Korean firm] applies under the same set of conditions, chances are it will be denied," Reyes said.

The cancellation of the ECC in effect has also voided all the permits the company has been able to obtain from concerned government agencies.

The Korean firm has been less transparent in its ECC application—constructing two 15-person capacity elevators instead of a four-person capacity elevator and an access road, which was not declared in the certificate, Reyes elaborated.

Jocelyn R. Uy



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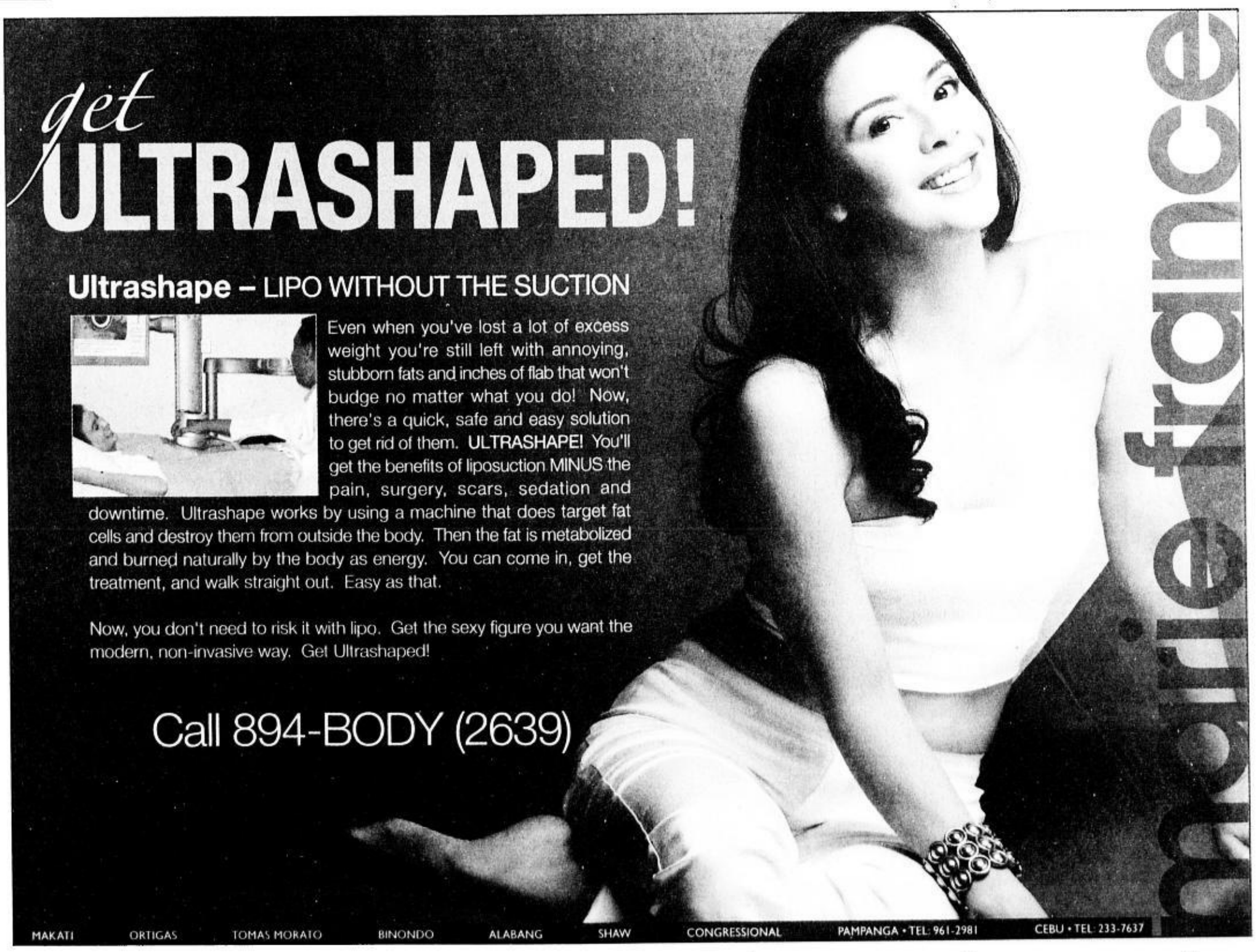


House saved P66M for nat'l gov't, says Joe de V ally

A PROGRAM OF "AUSTERITY, cost cutting and disciplined financial management" has resulted in a P66-million savings for the House of Representatives which was turned over to the National treasury.

Rep. Eduardo Zialcita made this disclosure on Wednesday as he gave credit to Speaker Jose de Venecia for the savings. In a press statement, Zialcita said this fiscal discipline even made it possible for the construction and completion of a modern gymnasium at the Batasan complex from savings posted in 2005 and 2006.

Zialcita is one of the staunchest supporters of De Venecia in his bid to retain the speakership against the challenge posed by Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia of Kampi.

"The House of Representatives is perhaps the only agency in government that has returned savings to the National treasury," Zialcita said. "The 2004 savings, the first for the House in years, set the example for austerity and fiscal discipline in public office."

Zialcita said the House constructed from its savings a P26-million modern gymnasium, inaugurated only last month, as the House leadership kept up with the demand for more office space and venues for committee hearings in the 14th Congress, which is expected to have 244 members, the biggest since 1987.

The Parañaque congressman said De Venecia also has an ongoing program to bring the House to the digital age with computers that provide members with an electronic link to the plenary hall, to their congressional districts and to the global information technology highway.

In recent months, De Venecia inaugurated an Information Technology training center that continues to provide House members and Secretariat officials and employees with extensive training on the multiple applications and programs afforded by modern technology in the computer age," Zialcita said.

HOUSE SPEAKERSHIP RACE

Challengers want secret balloting

By Norman Bordadora

AN ALLY OF SPEAKERSHIP CHALlenger Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia yesterday asked incumbent Speaker Jose De Venecia to address a reported growing clamor for the incoming House of Representatives to choose its leader through secret balloting.

This developed as Manila Rep. Amado Bagatsing cited De Venecia's own partymate, Quezon City Rep. Mary Ann Susano and oppositionist Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Carlos Padilla as two of those who openly called for a secret balloting in the election of the Speaker.

Susano, a member of De Venecia's Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, has also announced her own bid for the speakership.

"Speaker De Venecia cannot say no to secret balloting as that would expose him as being out of touch with reality. He cannot swim against the current, or impose his will on the majority of congressmen," Bagatsing said.

The idea of secret balloting was first proposed by Camarines Sur Rep. Arnulfo Fuentebella as De Venecia claimed to have the numbers to win a fifth term as speaker and Garcia claimed to be gaining support from the ranks of the incumbent's allies.

The secret balloting, according to its adherents, will cause members of the House to freely choose their candidate for speaker without fear of consequences arising from their choice.

"With Garcia and Susano supporting secret balloting, De Venecia is the only remaining holdout against it among the candidates for Speaker. He's a voice in the wilderness," Bagatsing said.

Bagatsing said Susano's speakership bid belies the claim of De Venecia that Lakas-CMD is solidly supporting him since they belong to the same party.

"If De Venecia believes his own claim that he already has the support of about 160 congressmen, then the latter would agree to secret balloting to decide the issue as soon as possible," Bagatsing said.

Nograles headed for CA

By Norman Bordadora

WITH THE RETURN OF MANDALUYONG congressman and former House majority leader Neptali Gonzales, Jr. to the House of Representatives, it appears the incumbent majority leader is headed for a different post in the next Congress.

Speaker Jose De Venecia has asked Davao City Rep. Prospero Nograles, the House majority leader in the outgoing 13th Congress, to head the House contingent to the Commission on Appointments, the House of Representatives information division reported yesterday.

In a statement, De Venecia said that if he's elected anew to lead the House, he will ask Nograles to "consider the possibility of leading the House contingent to the powerful commission, which lately has been rocked with controversies."

There are 12 members of the House in the bicameral commission that screens and confirms the President's appointees to the Cabinet and other key government positions.

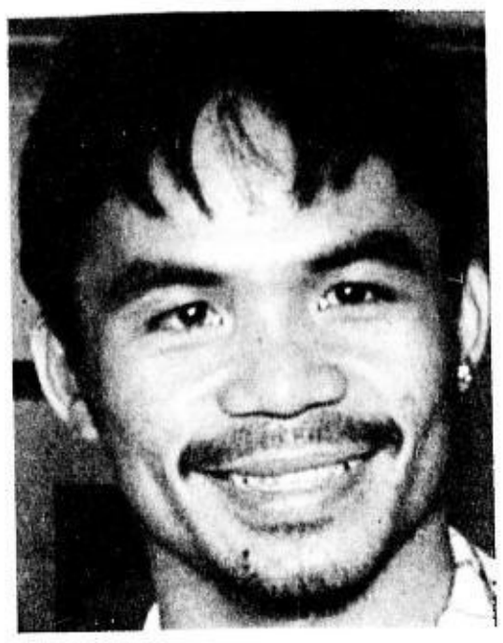
De Venecia's statement comes in the wake of a newspaper report that said he and Nograles have broken their alliance due allegedly to Nograles' failure as majority leader to shepherd the passage of the new charter of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor).

There have also been persistent speculation that Nograles may be on the way out as majority leader because of Gonzales' return to the House after serving as Mandaluyong City's mayor. Gonzales also served as majority leader under De Venecia in a previous Congress.

Both Gonzales and Nograles are staunch allies of De Venecia.

The position of majority leader carries with it the chairmanship of the powerful House committee on rules.

"(Nograles), who is senior leader of the House of Representatives, will be able to initiate the reforms and provide utmost transparency as head of the House Contingent in the CA," De Venecia said.



PACQUIAO

Customs to review Pacman's tax on SUV

By Jerome Aning

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS YESTERDAY was looking into whether boxing champion Manny Pacquiao could have underpaid the duties for a luxury sport utility vehicle (SUV) that he imported from the United States after a match in Las Vegas last year.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales said the bureau was reviewing the documents of all luxury vehicles imported in the last three years, including those submitted by Pacquiao, to check for possible undervaluation and to correct underpayments made by importers.

"I don't think there will be any problem if we ask Manny to pay additional taxes should we find deficiencies in his payment," Morales told reporters.

He said Pacquiao might not even be directly blamed for possibly being remiss in paying the duties and taxes as all import entries are often processed through a broker under standard customs procedures.

"I do not think he will deliberately try to cheat the government as he is very well off," he said. "But still, I urge him to come forward if he is aware of an error and offer to settle the difference."

Morales also did not rule out the possibility that Pacquiao might have obtained a discount for the car, where its actual retail value was used as basis for computing the importation tax.

"We will still have to check, because sometimes, if the importer gets a discount in the transaction value, we cannot impose the test value we have on record, we have to abide by the discounted price," Morales said. "We will have to see if the difference between the transaction value and our book value is too big. Only then will we be able to determine if there is fraud committed."

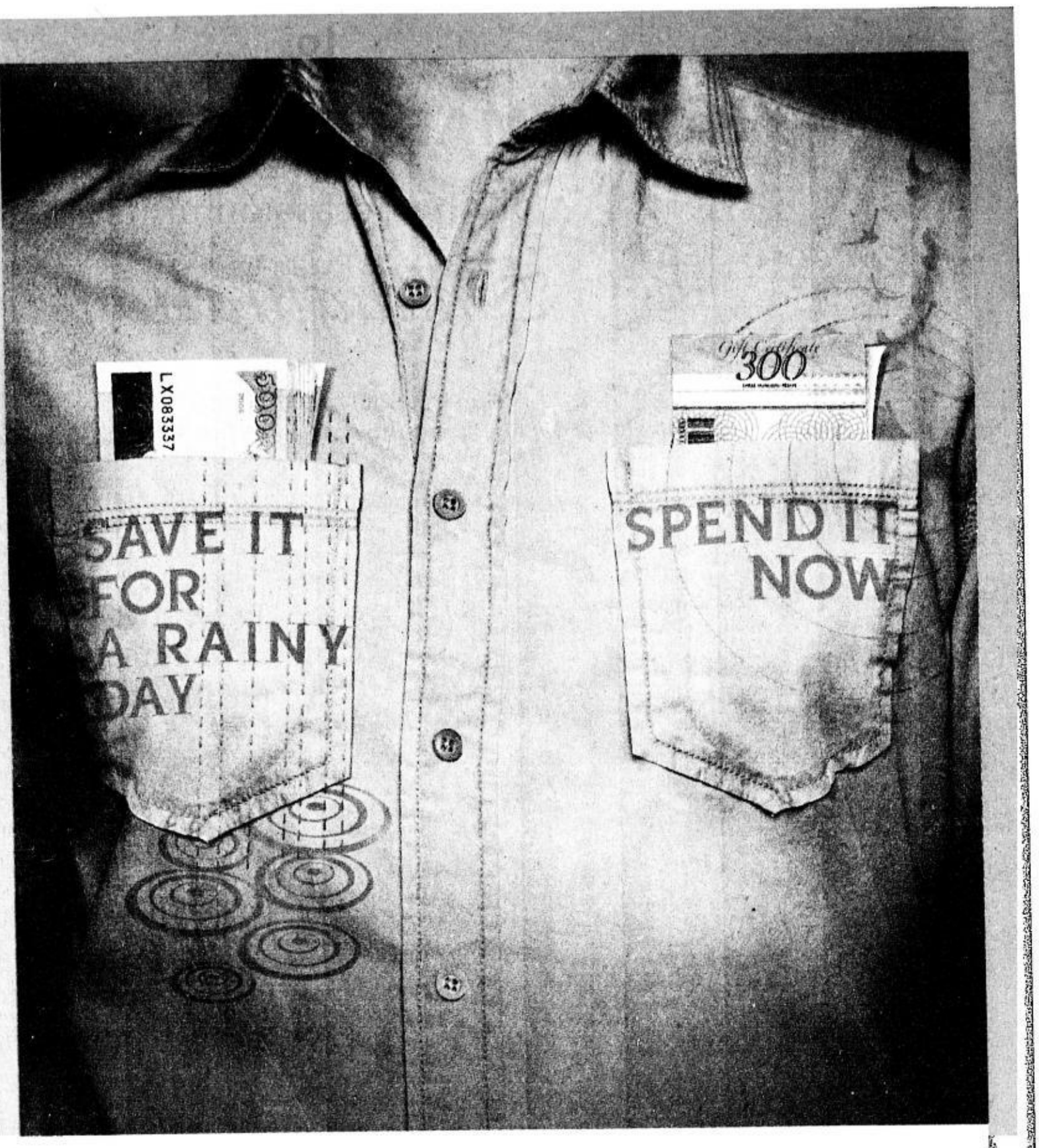
Customs Post Entry Audit Group director Jun Ligon said Pacquiao had already told him he was willing to go through the audit process and in fact inquired how to pay additional duties and taxes in case a discrepancy was found.

"We are reviewing the case of Mr. Pacquiao and if indeed there is undervaluation, we will act on it," he said.

Pacquiao imported the car, a Porsche Cayenne Turbo, after his celebrated fight with Mexican boxer Eric Morales in the US last year. The vehicle, which cost $93,700 (P4.872 million) at the time of purchase, reportedly entered the country in July and facilitated by broker Benjamin Valic.

Pacquiao bought the Porsche last January to replace his seven-seater Lincoln Navigator which he bought in 2005. Pacquiao owns a Ford Expedition, a Mitsubishi Pajero V6, a Honda CRV, a Toyota pickup and a Lincoln Continental Mark III.

Morales earlier mobilized the PEAG to audit oil and other bulk shipments, update the valuation database of all commodities, auction off seized good and collect bonds in a bid to plug revenue leaks and to make up for the bureau's P12.9-billion deficit in the first semester.



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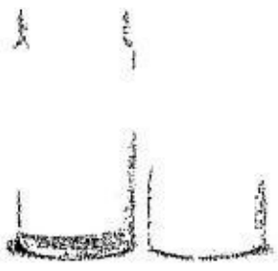

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Congratulations

to

NYK-TDG MARITIME ACADEMY (NTMA)

on the occassion of its

Inauguration

Friday, 06 July 2007, 1000H
Knowledge Avenue, Carmeltown, Canlubang, Calamba, Laguna

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President, Republic of the Philippines

Warmest congratulations to the officers and employees of NYK-TDG (Nippon Yusen Kaisha-Transnational Diversified Group).

Since its inception 31 years ago, the growth of the NYK-TDG in the Philippines in the field of logistics, trucking, shipping, and travel has been truly impressive. I am particularly pleased with the opening of the NYK-TDG Maritime Academy in the Philippines.

I am certain that the NTMA will not only further develop and promote the competitiveness of future Filipino merchant marine officers, but it will also broaden their opportunities to acquire competency-based curriculum, direct access to modern equipment and facilities, and guaranteed shipboard training.

There is no doubt that the NTMA raises the quality of maritime education in our country and keeps the Philippines on competitive edge as the "Manning Capital of the World."
More power to all of you and Mabuhay!

Patricia A. Sto. Tomas
Chairman, Board of Trustees
NYK-TDG Maritime Academy

The inauguration of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha (NYK) – Transnational Diversified Group (TDG) Maritime Academy marks another milestone in the history of the Philippine seafaring industry.

The establishment and operation of the Academy could not have come at the most opportune time than now when the demand for seafarers, particularly of marine officers, is increasing. The need for cargo, container and cruise ships continue to expand the demand not only for ships but also for people to man them. The Academy has taken up this challenge and intends to increase the opportunities for more Filipinos to join the seafaring industry. With its built-in academic and on-board ship training the Academy aims to mold the Filipino students' capability to meet the present manpower requirements of the global market.

The NYK and TDG partnership's strong and steadfast support for the seafaring industry has spanned over three decades. From the deployment of seafarers, they have now expanded their scope to include the production of Filipino marine officers. In appreciation of their efforts, I enjoin the administrators, professors, and staff of the maritime academy to work hard to fulfill its mission to be a stable supplier of future Filipino seafarers. I hope you will cultivate the knowledge and skills of students to be at par with global standards.

The Philippines, as we know, has been the foremost source of seafarers in the global maritime workforce and government supports the continued provision of this opportunity for Filipino youth. I therefore also wish to enlist the full support of the studentry in this significant undertaking of the administration. As our maritime institution offers opportunities for your gainful employment, I trust that you would also duly perform your learner's role with passion, dedication, and industriousness. Let this be your first voyage that would lead to academic excellence, technical competence, and a bright, promising future.

For all of us in the academy, may today's inauguration buildup our commitment towards the production of Filipino seafarers who are technically-adept, highly esteemed professionals and world-class in the delivery of competent and quality service. This task would represent our share in the country's pursuit of job productivity, economic stability, and national prosperity.

Thank you.

Koji Miyahara
President, NYK Line

NYK LINE
NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA

NYK Line has a long and beneficial relationship with Filipino seafarers. In our more than 30 years of partnership with Transnational Diversified Group (TDG), we have seen the quality and excellent service that they provide to our fleet.

Because of this, Filipino seafarers have contributed to a large extent to the growth of NYK Line. Indeed, our good relationship with TDG and our Filipino seafarers is the reason we continue to support and embark on projects that strengthen our bond with one another.

The NYK-TDG Maritime Academy (NTMA) is a symbol of this partnership. It represents our common vision as partners of securing a stable supply of world-class merchant marine officers to our fast growing fleet. It shall nurture not only our dreams and aspirations but also that of our cadets.

In many ways, NTMA represents who we are and what we believe in. Thus, in our young cadets, we will not only provide them the highest standards in maritime education but we will also impart to them our beliefs, principles, and values—the driving force that made our partnership to what it is today. Our goal is that our graduates shall embody the same spirit that have guided us to reach new heights of success; to excel in their profession, and truly represent the best of our companies and the best of the Filipino talent.

I especially thank the Honorable Ms. Patricia A. Sto. Tomas for her acceptance of the Chairmanship of the NTMA Board of Trustees. Ms. Sto. Tomas is known for her integrity and high principles. It is without doubt that under her guidance and expertise, the Academy will live up to its mission of providing world-class maritime education to its cadets.

To our pioneering 120 cadets, make the best of your stay inside the Academy. Hone your skills and develop your minds to maximize your fullest potential. Make each step you make lead you closer to your dreams of becoming world-class merchant marine officers of NYK Line.

Welcome aboard!

J. Roberto C. Delgado
Founder and Group Chairman
Transnational Diversified Group

TRANSNATIONAL
DIVERSIFIED GROUP

It is with pride that we at the Transnational Diversified Group (TDG) formally inaugurate together with our foremost partner Nippon Yusen Kaisha (NYK) Line, the NYK-TDG Maritime Academy (NTMA).

NTMA, located in Canlubang, Laguna, is a crowning glory of the NYK-TDG partnership that has spanned more than three decades of solid partnership. It stands as a symbol not only of our great partnership but also of our commitment to the seafaring community.

It represents the special bond between this partnership and the Filipino seafarers and their families who have been integral to our growth as companies.

Education is very important to Filipinos as it is considered the greatest inheritance or legacy that parents could give their children. By investing in maritime education, we help provide opportunities to young Filipinos to have access to quality education and fulfill their dreams of becoming merchant marine officers. This way, we help ensure the competitiveness of Filipino seafarers and maintain the good reputation of the Philippine seafaring industry as the "manning capital of the world."

By providing a competency-based curriculum, direct access to modern facilities, and guaranteed shipboard training, we provide the best opportunities for our cadets to realize their fullest potential. We are confident that under the capable hands of the NTMA Administration led by the Honorable Ms. Patricia A. Sto. Tomas, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and C/E Wilson P. Traviña, President, our cadets will be able to acquire the required skills and competencies upon graduation.

To our pioneering 120 NTMA cadets: start planting the seeds of your future inside the Academy. Be patient and disciplined. Be diligent in your studies. Strengthen your roots to make them stronger. And in four year's time, I hope to see all of you on-board NYK Line vessels as responsible and committed merchant marine officers who are among the best in the world.

Welcome and congratulations!

VISION

To be the world's center of excellence in core education based on the highest ideals of human resource development and maritime education.

MISSION

NYK-TDG Maritime Academy will:

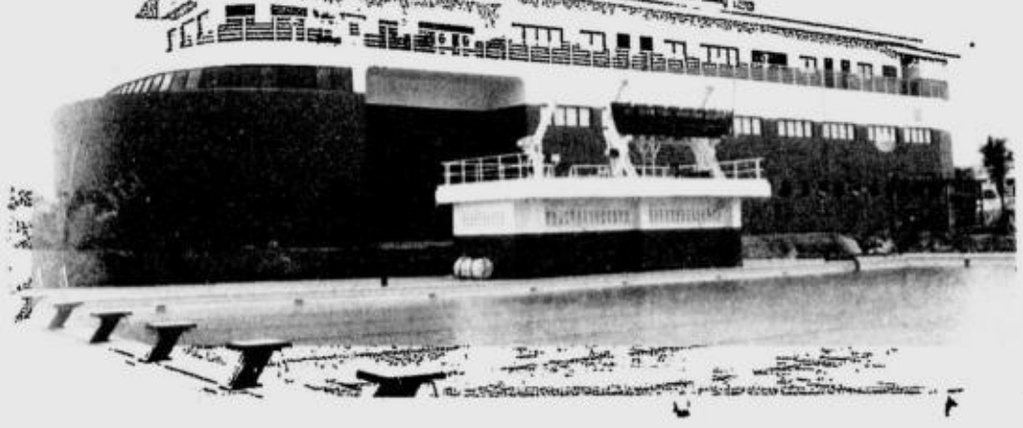
Provide excellent maritime education through intellectual training, values inculcation, leadership development, and concern for the protection of the marine environment.

Provide the highest quality licensed officers for merchant marine fleet and maximize avenues for total human resource development.

IMPLEMENTATION

Towards the full realization of this Mission, NTMA will:

- Continuously update its curriculum to strengthen the core education of cadets and ensure its relevance at all times;
- Provide opportunity to each cadet to take the mandatory 12-month shipboard training;
- Provide its graduates the necessary assistance in passing the licensure examination for marine deck officers and engineers;
- Provide continuing maritime education and training to upgrade the quality of seafarers to become management level officers and engineers;
- Conduct extensive research to address maritime issues and concerns; and
- Actively explore opportunities for the advancement of the maritime profession based on the results of relevant research and development in the field.



4th of July still big in US despite 9/11, says envoy

By Tarra Quismundo

LEGAZPI CITY—THE 11TH OF SEPTEMBER 2001 may have shattered the innocence of much of the world, but the terror threat has not changed the way the United States commemorates the Fourth of July.

"July 4 is really our big holiday where it's the middle of summer in the United States, we have picnics and families and you always get together with friends... your huge expanded family, and it's always been that way. And I think it always will be," US Ambassador Kristie Kenney told reporters Wednesday aboard the USS Peleliu, a US Navy ship anchored off this city while on a goodwill mission.

"I don't think 9/11 changed that. It might have made many people think about protecting their country more. But I think that in terms of July Fourth always being your day with friends and family, it hasn't. And it is a day that you think with pride about your country," continued the ambassador.

Vice Admiral Douglas Crowder, commander of the US Pacific Fleet, said the same thing when he was asked if 9/11 had changed what Independence Day meant to the men and women of the US military deployed around the world.

"I think the Fourth of July really transcends where we're at. Over the years, we've been at war, we've been at peace, and now we face the terrorism threat. It's a day for reflection, thinking about those who came before us and what they had done, and how lucky we are to live in the country that we do," Crowder said.

July 4 also being Philippine-American Friendship Day, Kenney flew to Albay early on Wednesday to visit US-assisted projects in the province and announce a $5-million aid package that would build 1,000 homes and community centers in the typhoon-ravaged areas.

Fil-Am friendship

July 4 used to be the Philippines' Independence Day also until the 1960s when then President Diosdado Macapagal switched commemorations to June 12. July 4 hence became Philippine-American Friendship Day.

Kenney said the aid package, allocated by the US Congress and approved by President George W. Bush, was "one of the biggest single donations we've ever done for disaster assistance."

"You can imagine the US ambassador could be practically anywhere on the most important day of the year for Americans, and I chose to be here. It's a huge holiday and there's nowhere I'd rather be, nowhere that it's a better example of the great friendship (between the Philippines and US) and I just feel like celebrating friendship," Kenney said after inspecting homes American servicemen helped build for typhoon victims in Barangay Anislag in Daraga.

In the evening, Kenney and the US Navy personnel hosted a reception on the Peleliu for local government, police and military officials, treating them to a Fourth of July barbecue.

Hot dogs, chicken, baby back ribs, pork and beans, corn, salads, bread and cookies crowded the buffet table. For those hunkering for a taste of Pinoy food, lechon (roast pig) was laid out on a separate table. Wine, beer and soda flowed. Ice cream and cake—with the US flag for icing—were served for dessert.

"I can bring you to my home and have a barbecue but I think I'd run out of airline tickets, so instead we're having it here," Kenney told the guests numbering around 300.

When the eating was done, Kenney and the Navy personnel showed just how the Fourth of July celebration had not changed for most Americans. They took to the dance floor, with the Filipino guests gamely joining in, dancing to the groove of the US Marine Forces Pacific Band's swinging tunes.

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TAX CREDIT SCAM

Whistle-blower cleared of contempt

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE SANDIGANBAYAN HAS CLEARED TAX credit scam whistle-blower Felix Chingkoe of the contempt charge his estranged older brother, Faustino, filed against him last year.

Faustino Chingkoe, the principal accused in the P5.3-billion tax credit scam, accused his younger brother of "severely criticizing" the Sandiganbayan Fourth Division—where Faustino is facing 83 counts of graft—for allowing the latter to travel to Canada and the United States in June 2006.

In asking the court to cite his younger brother for contempt, Faustino said Felix had accused the antigraft court of "obstructionism" and of being "arrogant" for repeatedly denying the prosecution's plea to keep the former from leaving the country.

Such statements, Faustino argued, tended to create distrust and destroy public confidence in the antigraft court.

The Sandiganbayan, however, ruled there was insufficient basis to cite Felix for contempt.

Felix was quoted in a newspaper (not the INQUIRER) in July 2006 as having said that it was "sheer arrogance" for the Sandiganbayan to allow his brother to travel abroad to look for a school for his daughter.

In his defense, Felix said the reporter had quoted him out of context and his imputation of arrogance was not addressed to the court.

What he said during the interview was "it is sheer arrogance on the part of the petitioner [Faustino] to continue traveling abroad when there are a number of cases pending against him," he explained.

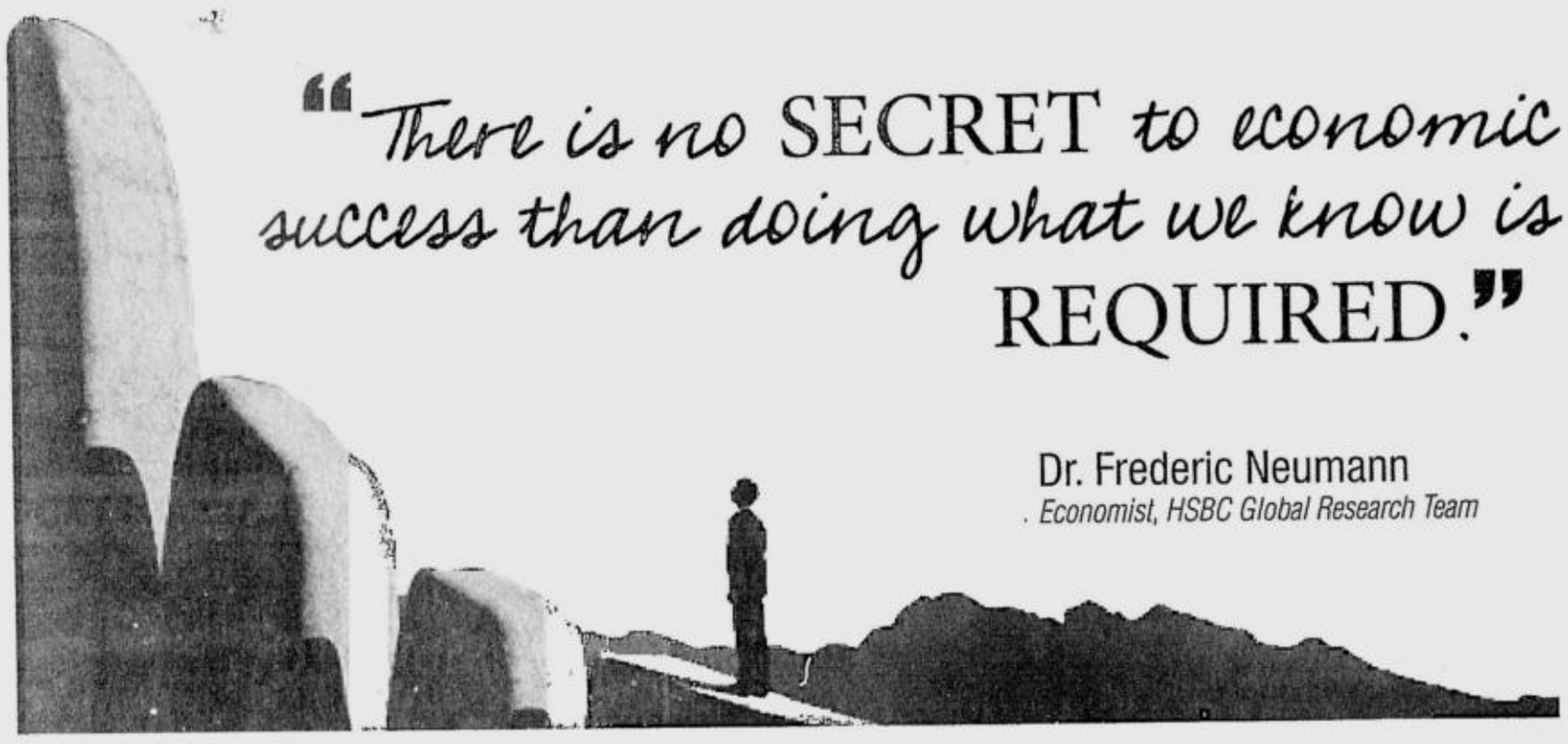
Faustino was slapped with a string of graft cases following an audit in the mid-1990s that showed that more than 10 of his companies were allegedly responsible for defrauding the government of P2.5 billion through the fraudulent use of tax credit certificates (TCCs), or half of the P5.3-billion worth of questioned TCCs.

A TCC serves as a company's claim for tax credits, which are given to firms that import raw materials for processing and then export the finished products which are not sold in the Philippines. Companies trade their TCCs with other firms that use them to claim tax credits. The fraud comes in when companies not entitled to TCCs use them anyway.

Felix Chingkoe is a prosecution witness against his brother.

"The court is sufficiently satisfied with respondent Felix's explanation," read the court decision.

It said Faustino failed to present credible evidence to prove Felix had uttered such "offending statements."



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Manila history, culture on film in conference

PAPERS AND FILM/VIDEO PRESENTATIONS on Manila's history and culture will be featured at the 16th annual conference of the Manila Studies Association Inc. (MSA) on Aug. 1-2.

The conference will be held at the Tanghalan Leandro V. Locsin, National Commission for Culture and the Arts, at 633 General Luna Street, Intramuros, Manila. Registration (with a fee of P2,000) starts at 8 a.m. on Aug. 1.

The speakers/presenters are Israel B. Cabanilla, University of the Philippines in Diliman; Fr. Rolando S. dela Goza, CM, St. Vincent School of Theology; Jose Victor Torres, Intramuros Administration and University of Santo Tomas Graduate School; Nick A. Deocampo, Mowelfund Film Institute; Elizabeth L. Enriquez, UP Diliman; Marya Svetlana T. Camacho, University of Asia and the Pacific; Emmanuel Luis Romanillos, UP Diliman; Carmelea Ang See, Bahay Tsinoy Museum; Fernando A. Santiago Jr., De La Salle University, Manila; Peter Parsons, Spyron Manila Production; Ronaldo B. Mactal, DLSU Manila; Bernard Karganilla, UP Manila; and Carlos Madrid Alvarez-Piñer, Instituto Cervantes de Manila.

An optional tour of Bahay Tsinoy, the Museum of the Chinese in Philippine Life, for a discounted entrance fee of P60 is scheduled at the end of the conference.

Established in June 1989, the MSA is a nonprofit professional organization devoted to the study and research of all aspects of Manila studies. It aims to preserve and conserve Manila's historical and cultural landmarks through the dissemination of relevant literature.

For inquiries, contact Lorelei D.C. de Viana (0917-855-0060, deviana_ph(yahoo.com); Maria Eloisa P. de Castro (0912-256-1281, eloise_ust@hotmail.com); Bernardita R. Churchill (921-4575, 0918-444-4510, nitachurchill@hotmail.com).

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, July 6, 2007
13th Week in Ordinary Time
Maria Goretti

1st Reading: Gen 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67

Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13

As Jesus moved on from there, he saw a man named Matthew at his seat in the custom-house, and he said to him, "Follow me." And Matthew got up and followed him. Now it happened, while Jesus was at table in Matthew's house, many tax collectors and other sinners joined Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this they said to his disciples, "Why is it that your master eats with those sinners and tax collectors?"

When Jesus heard this he said, "Healthy people do not need a doctor, but sick people do. Go and find out what this means: What I want is mercy, not sacrifice. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

Commentary

Sarah dies and is buried, and Abraham, a resident alien in that country buys a piece of property to bury her and to rest beside her when his time comes. He asks his servant to find his son Isaac a wife from his own kindred—a dying request. The servant sets it up. Isaac meets Rebekah and they eventually marry, bringing consolation and promise.

Jesus summons a tax collector to follow him—no one is exempt from the invitation to follow Jesus, no matter what we have been working at before we hear the Word of the Lord calling out to us. Others find fault with Jesus and he tells them and us that he hasn't come for anyone who thinks they are healthy or okay. But he has come for those who know they need forgiveness, healing, and mercy. Do we admit to being in such need?

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Garcia lawyers want out

THEY WANT OUT OF the case.

The lawyers of the wife and children of former military comptroller Major Gen. Carlos Garcia, who is facing plunder charges at the Sandiganbayan Second Division, has asked the antigraft court to approve their withdrawal of representation for Garcia's family as they have already lost contact with them.

Counsel Rainier Madrid and Alvin Carullo said that they could no longer effectively handle the defense of Clarita Depakakibo-Garcia, Ian Carl, Juan Paulo and Timothy Mark Garcia because their whereabouts could not be established.

The lawyers said that despite "diligent efforts," they failed to locate Garcia's wife and children, who have shortly disappeared after they were indicted for plunder in 2005.

Garcia was slapped with plunder charges for allegedly amassing P303.27 million ill-gotten wealth during his active service in the military. His wife and children were included in the charges for allegedly helping him conceal his loot.

Jocelyn R. Uy

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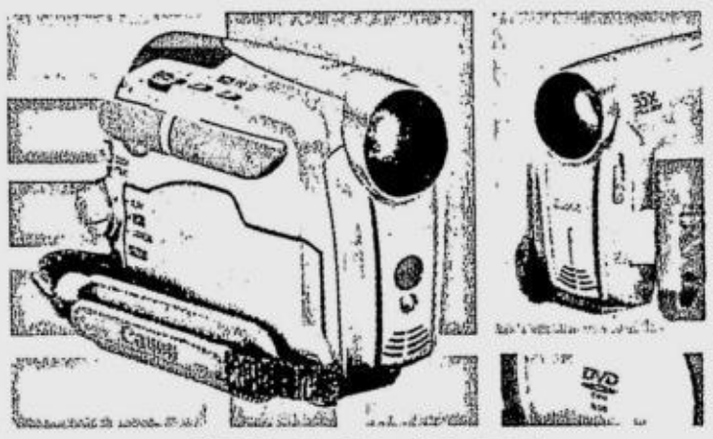

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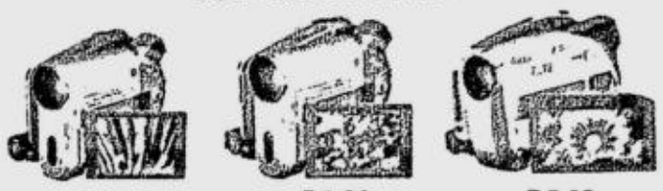

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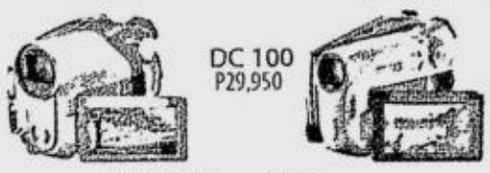

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Cybercops, SEC, NBI probe Internet scam

From page A1

tapped by the DIDM, he said.

The new scam lures unsuspecting victims over the Internet using the websites http://www.francswiss.biz/ and http://deutchfrancs.com.

Prospective investors are asked to invest $1,000 in francswiss.biz and $10,000 in deutchfrancs.com that promise to double their money in 22 days.

"We are currently looking into it and we have issued an advisory," Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Fe Barin said.

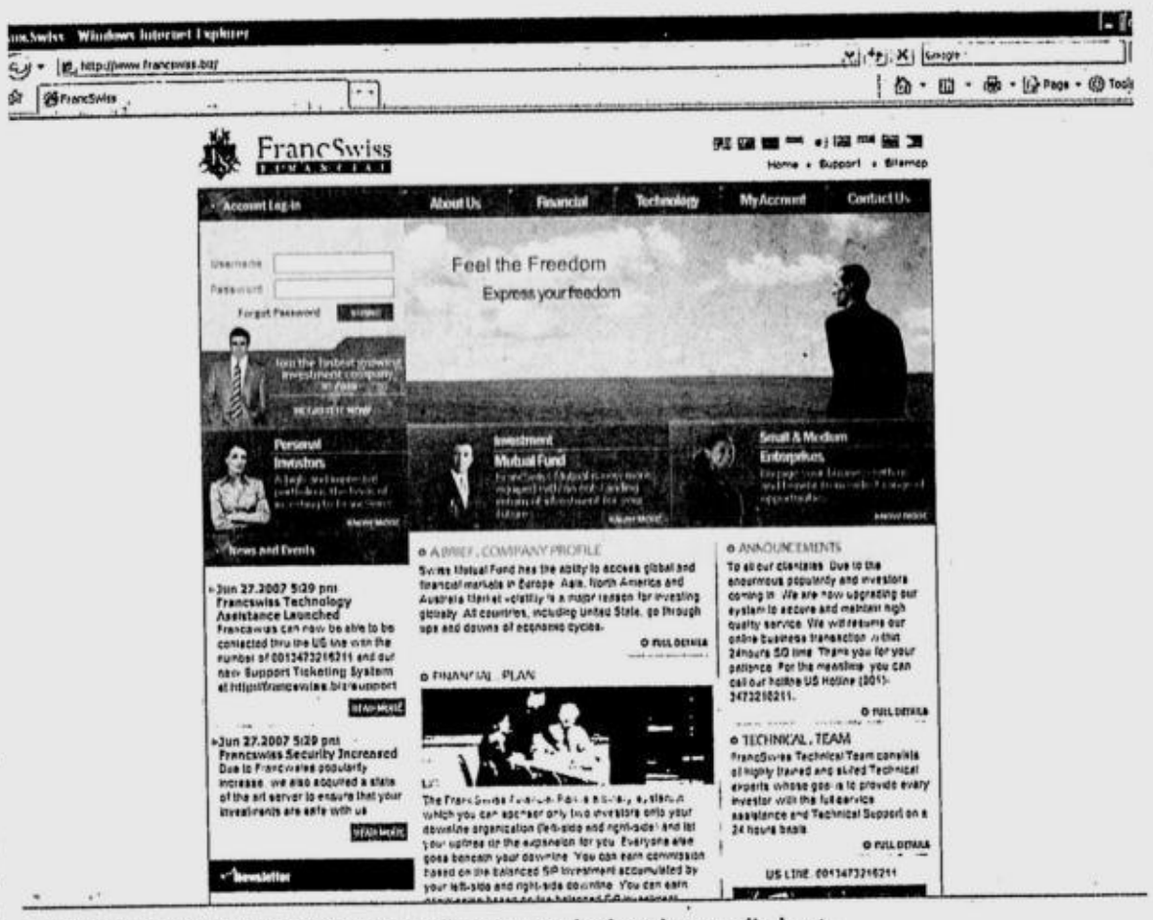
Besides francswiss, the SEC has identified other Internet-based Ponzi investment schemes—Swiss Cash, Universal Forex System, Global America and Private Forex Trade Inc.

Proliferating

Gov. Amando Tetangco Jr. of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas earlier said the online scam and other "high-yield investment programs" proliferating on the Internet were gaining popularity in the Philippines.

"It's happening in Baguio, Pampanga, and even big groups are being wooed. We don't know who the people behind these scams are but we are trying to figure out how to crack the code," said Hubert Guevara, SEC compliance and enforcement department director.

Guevara said in his public notice posted on the SEC website that the agency had received reports that these groups were engaged in a pyramiding scheme.



SCAMMERS WEBSITE, contrary to earlier reports, had not been pulled out.

Fake SEC certificate

These entities are not registered with the SEC and have no permit or authority to solicit investments from the public, the commission said.

Private Forex Trade Inc. in particular, has been found to be misleading the public by showing a fake SEC certificate of registration on its website.

"We're coordinating with other agencies such as the National Bureau of Investigation, and the Anti-Money Laundering Council, and our international counterpart agencies to catch operators. There are leads but the agencies are keeping them close to their hearts," SEC secretary Gerard Lukban said.

The SEC started its probe a few months ago after receiving complaints from the public.

Lukban said that if the agency could trace the ones propagating the operations, then the SEC could penalize them for violating the Securities Regulation Code (SRC). The violation carries a maximum imprisonment of 21 years.

Two-pronged

Mendoza said the PNP would coordinate closely with the SEC in the investigation. He described it as a "two-pronged" approach.

"We will conduct the cyber investigation and at the same time the physical investigation in which we will be taking down statements of victims and assessing the information they will be giving us," Mendoza said.

He appealed to other victims of the "Francswiss" scam to come out and lodge a complaint with his office.

It was the PNP's special cybercrime unit that busted a telecommunications fraud syndicate in the country in March. The syndicate was involved in hacking into PABX systems in the United States and stealing telephone numbers. The numbers, which can be used to make overseas calls for free, are then sold to international buyers.

Features of scheme

Mendoza said the PNP was working to increase its capacity to investigate large-scale Internet fraud perpetrated by "corporate criminals."

The SEC listed some of the features of an Internet-based Ponzi investment scheme.

- No SEC registration.
- Investment in foreign currency, preferably in US dollars.
- Offers or guarantees a huge profit in a very short period.
- Uses a binary network to earn commissions.
- No paper trail such as contracts and receipts.
- Promises little or no financial risk.
- Provision for a lock-up period where an investor cannot touch the investment in 60 days for instance.
- Assures payoff investments in a short time.
- Uses high-pressure methods to convince investors to reinvest their earnings.
- Unknown principal office, address, founders, directors or officers.
- Orientation seminars are conducted informally.

This type of investment scheme ordinarily collapses as fast as they are created while investors are left unable to recover their money, according to Guevara.

"The public is therefore urged to report any offer of investment made by persons who represent the above mentioned entities or other entities using similar modus operandi to the undersigned in order that the appropriate enforcement action be taken," Guevara wrote in a warning to the public.

Mexican dislodges Gates as world's richest man—for now

From page A1

said Gates was sitting on a $56-billion fortune.

According to Garcia's calculations that appeared early this week, Slim catapulted to the No. 1 spot as early as late March, with a fortune surpassing Gates' by about $9 billion (euro740 million).

"Thanks to a 26.5-percent rise in the shares of America Movil during the second quarter, Slim, who controls a 33-percent interest in Latin America's largest mobile phone company, is substantially richer than Gates," Garcia said in Sentido Comun.

Garcia's estimate of Gates' latest net worth is based on a 5.7-percent rise in Microsoft shares during the same period.

MOVE OVER, BILL GATES. Carlos Slim (left) photographed during the IV World Water Forum last year in Mexico City has overtaken Gates, who's been the longtime Numero Uno in Forbes list of the world's richest. PDI PHOTO FILE

Soaring performances

Sentido Comun said soaring performances from Slim's other business interests had also helped propel the Mexican tycoon past Gates. Aside from America Movil, Slim controls the Inbursa financial group and the Grupo Carso industrial firm with interests spanning retail stores, coffee shops and restaurants.

One reason for Slim's meteoric rise may also be because he is still working. Gates stepped aside as Microsoft chief in 2000 to devote his energies to the philanthropic foundation he runs with his wife, Melinda.

Garcia acknowledged that his second-quarter calculations did not include possible gains in Gates' holdings outside of Microsoft that, according to Forbes, represent more than half of the software mogul's fortune. He also noted that he did not take into account Slim's holdings outside of his numerous companies.

"I say that Slim is No. 1 because I have the latest figures of Forbes," Garcia said. "When Forbes revises their numbers, OK, then we'll have to wait and see."

In a statement on Tuesday, Forbes did not comment on Garcia's calculations but said its next valuation of Gates' wealth would appear in the annual Forbes 400 list of the richest Americans in September. A calculation of Slim's worth will be published in March next year, the magazine said.

Doesn't care about lists

Slim's spokesperson, Arturo Elias Ayub, told The Associated Press that his boss did not pay much attention to such lists.

"As he has said many times himself, he is not in any competition," Ayub said. "He is dedicated to working in philanthropy and creating jobs in Latin America ... and the truth is he is not in a race to see who wins first or 10th or 15th place."

Slim, the son of Lebanese immigrants, has had business in his blood from his early days when he helped out in his father's shop, "The Star of the Orient."

The 67-year-old businessman, who is heavyset and bearded, started out in real estate and was already affluent when he graduated from the university with an engineering degree to buy stakes in a stock brokerage and a bottling firm.

Exploiting crisis

During the crippling Latin American economic crisis of the early 1980s, Slim snapped up and reformed a number of distressed businesses, banking massive profits for Grupo Carso. Carso gained its name from the first three letters of Slim's name and the first two of his late wife's, Soumaya Gemayel.

Analysts say one of Slim's smartest and most lucrative deals occurred when he took control of Telmex in 1990 as the government moved to privatize the sprawling telephone monopoly. Slim oversaw a $1.8-billion investment to take over Telmex, overhauled the company and expanded its service. Telmex became the star of the Mexican stock exchange and more than returned Slim's initial investment.

The Mexican billionaire has also made some savvy stock picks.

In 1997, he bought about 3 percent of Apple Computer at $17 per share shortly before the company launched its hit iMac computer. Twelve months later, Apple's shares topped $100.

Wears a plastic watch

Despite his vast riches, Slim reportedly shuns corporate jets and flashy offices. He sported a plastic watch during the 1990s.

Widowed in 1999, Slim has boosted his philanthropic presence and overseen his three sons' careers within his business empire.

Like Gates, he has developed a strong profile on the philanthropic front.

Earlier this month, Slim allied himself with the foundation of former US President Bill Clinton and with Canadian mining magnate Frank Giustra to launch an antipoverty campaign in Latin America.

Slim's current wealth represents nearly 8 percent of Mexico's total gross domestic product, according to Garcia.

No wonder then World Bank data show 53 percent of Mexico's population of 104 million are mired in poverty, which is defined as living on less than $2 a day. *Reports from AFP and AP*

US student downs 66 hot dogs to beat Japanese champ

From page A1

"Tsunami" Kobayashi in a rousing but repulsive triumph.

Chestnut, the American hope in the annual Independence Day competition, broke his own world record by swallowing 66 hot dogs in 12 minutes—a staggering one every 10.9 seconds before 50,000 screaming spectators.

"If I needed to eat another one right now, I could," the 23-year-old student from San Jose, California, said after receiving the mustard yellow belt emblematic of hot dog eating supremacy.

Apart from winning $10,000, Chestnut basked in the glory of breaking Kobayashi's seemingly endless run and beating 16 rivals that included two women.

The 70-kilo (154-pound) Kobayashi, who had won every Nathan's hot dog competition since 2001, managed to stay with the 97-kilo (215-pound) Chestnut until the very end despite the fact that the Japanese recently had a wisdom tooth extracted and received chiropractic treatment due to a sore jaw.

Once the contest ended, however, Kobayashi vomited, leading to a deduction from his final total. He finished with 63 hot dogs and buns eaten—still his best performance ever.

Since 1916

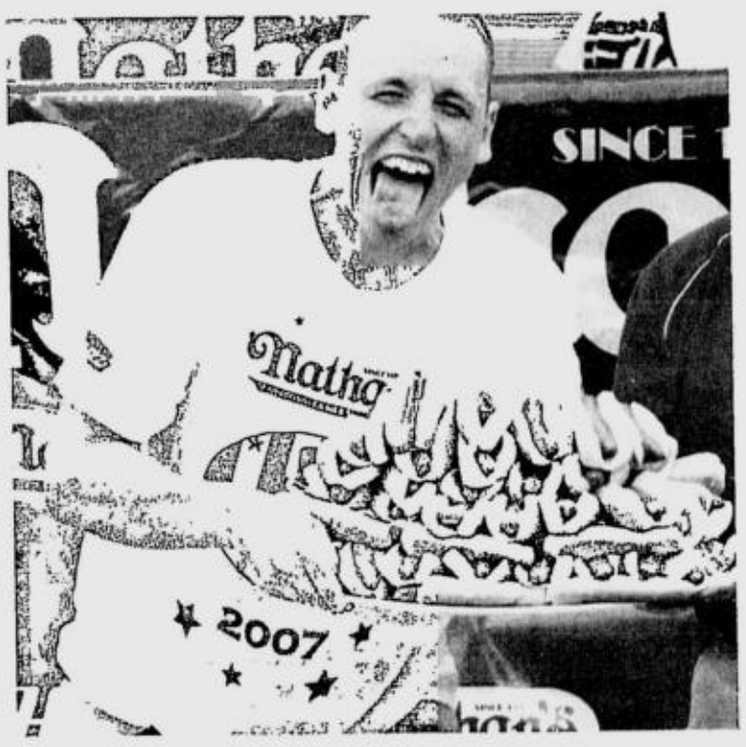
Kobayashi's previous high in the annual competition was 53 1/2 hot dogs. The all-time record before Wednesday's remarkable contest was Chestnut's 59 1/2 hot dogs, set just last month.

Competitors receive credit for anything in their mouths at the 12-minute mark, provided they can swallow it.

"Obviously, the last bit exited his mouth quite dramatically," said Rich Shea of the International Federation of Competitive Eating.

Speaking through a translator, Kobayashi promised to return for the 2008 event. The only previous non-Japanese winner since 1996 was American Steve Keiner in 1999.

"This title's been held by Kobayashi for six years, so it's about time it came home," said Chestnut, holding an American flag in his arms. "I knew going into this contest that Kobayashi was going to give 100 percent."



JAW-BREAKING CONTEST: Six-time champ Takeru Kobayashi massages his jaw to get ready for the gut-busting Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest in New York held every year on July 4 in Brooklyn's Coney Island. But Joey Chestnut (left) outeats him, gobbling 66 hot dogs in 12 minutes. AP

Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest has been held every year at the Coney Island beach since 1916 and is considered the blue ribbon event of the increasingly popular and lucrative competitive eating calendar.

Solomon technique

Most participants now use the "Solomon technique" patented by Kobayashi, breaking the wieners in half before wolfing them down. The buns are eaten separately after being dunked in water to make them easier to swallow. Contestants eschew condiments, such as ketchup or mustard.

Only 1 real rule

The only real rule is to avoid regurgitation—or "reversal of fortune" as it is quaintly termed—which would result in immediate disqualification.

Hot dog eating champions are not, as might be expected, huge and obese. According to experts, an excess of fatty tissue restricts the stomach's capacity for expansion.

Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest was broadcast on television during the July 4 holiday, a day Americans on the average put away 150 million wieners across the country.

Obesity prevalent

For an average summer season, Americans consume about seven billion hot dogs, or 818 wieners per second.

As might be expected, however, the United States has the highest prevalence of obesity among developed countries. About 60 million Americans—about one-third of the adult population—are obese, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *With reports from AP, AFP and Reuters*

Gov't troops kill 2 Abu Sayyaf leaders

By Julie Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—GOVERNMENT SECURITY forces killed two ranking Abu Sayyaf members during a clash in Basilan yesterday morning as the military widened its search for kidnapped Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi. (*See related story on Page A1*)

Brig. Gen. Ramiro Alivio, 1st Marine Brigade commander, said soldiers of the Marine Battalion Landing Team 8 (MBLT 8) were scouring Barangay Bohe Bessey in Akbar town when they encountered about 30 Abu Sayyaf bandits at around 10 a.m.

Alivio identified the slain bandits as Ladji Mohammad and a certain Panjang, the group's two commanders.

The INQUIRER learned that Mohammad and Panjang were sub-commanders under former Abu Sayyaf leader Suhod Tanajalin, a follower of the terrorist group's slain spokesperson, Abu Sabaya. Tanajalin had been arrested earlier and is detained at the Basilan provincial jail.

"Their bodies have been recovered along with M-14 and M-16 rifles and an M-177 machine gun with a substantial amount of ammunition," Alivio said.

He said the government side did not suffer any casualties.

Col. Felix Almadrones, MBLT 8 commander, said it was a chance encounter.

He said the troops were on a search and rescue operation for Bossi in Basilan.

"The operation was in support of the directive in anticipation that the kidnapped priest and his captors might be in the area," Almadrones said.

He said Akbar town was a known "landing area" of the Abu Sayyaf whenever they kidnapped someone from other parts of Mindanao.

Among the victims that had been brought to Akbar were Belgian nationals Lieven de la Marche and Erick Bracke, who were kidnapped in Zamboanga City in June 1999.

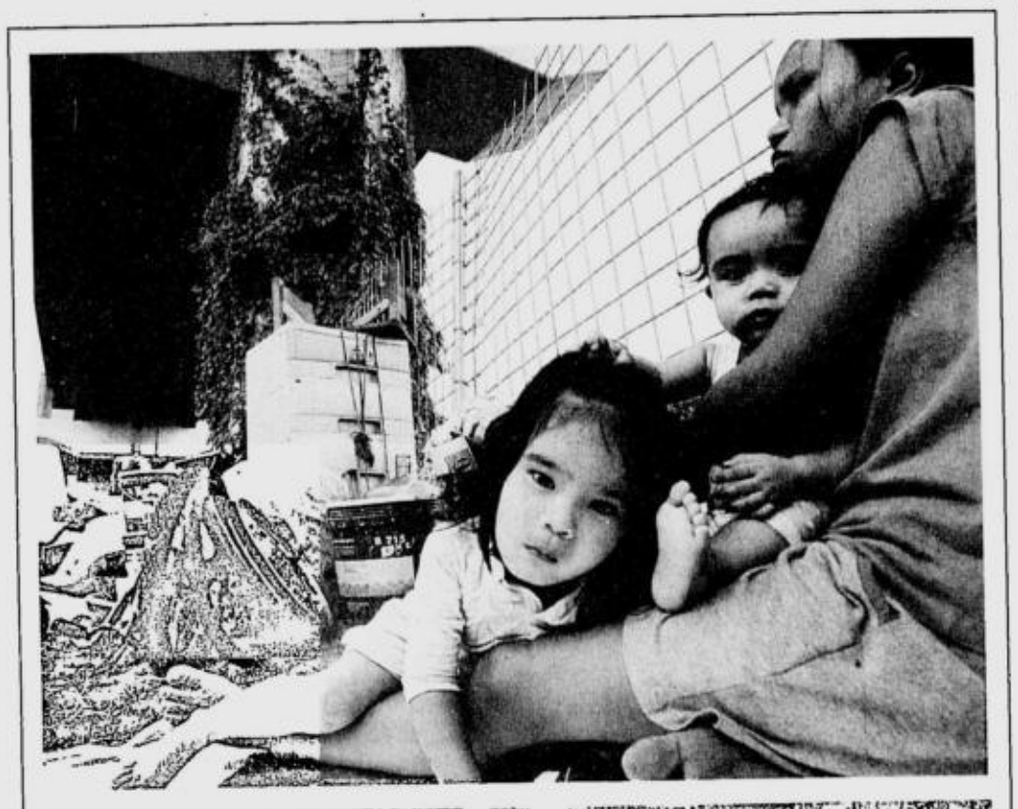
Martin and Gracia Burnham and other victims of the 2001 Dos Palmas kidnapping, including American Guillermo Sobero, were taken to Bohe Bessey.

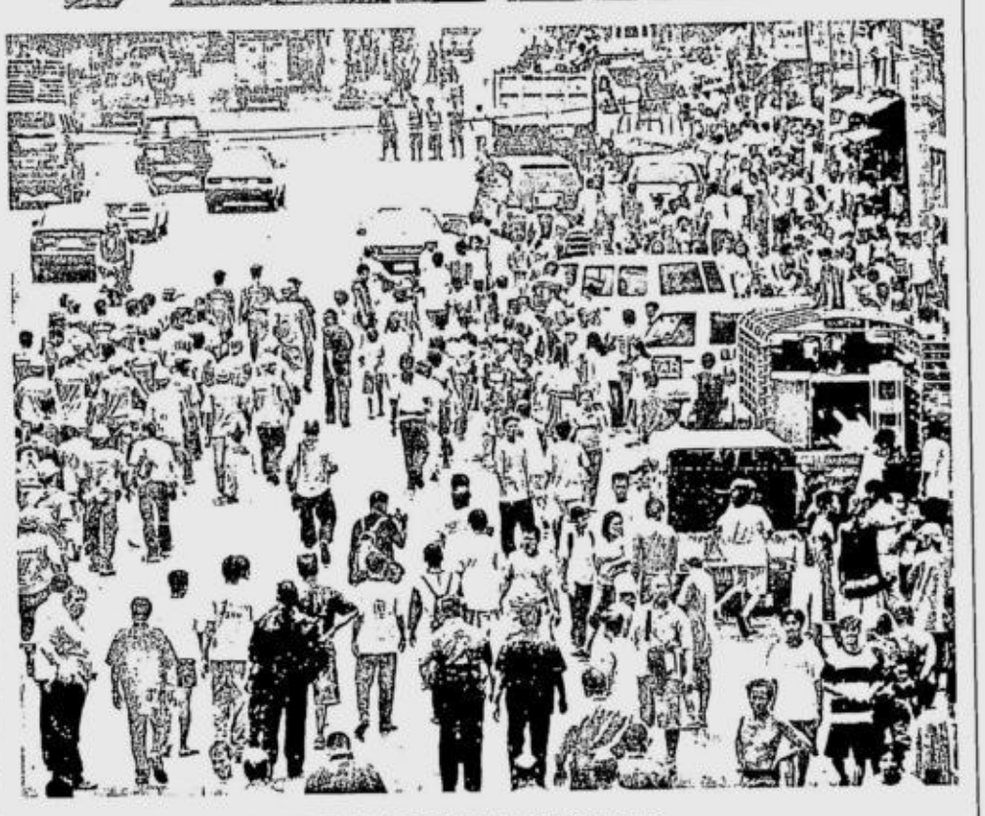
Maj. Gen. Nehemias Pajarito, chief of the Army's 1st Infantry Division based in Zamboanga del Sur, had earlier said it appeared Bossi and his abductors were not on the boundary of Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur.

The military said the Lanao operation, which lasted more than three weeks, was conducted after reports were received that Bossi had been brought there.

Pajarito said the search and rescue operation had shifted to the boundaries of Zamboanga Sibugay, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte and Zamboanga City after the Lanao operations failed to yield results.

With a report from Richel Umel, Inquirer Mindanao





DEMOLITION AT NORTH TRIANGLE ABORTED
The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority demolition team moves into position at the Edsa North Triangle where they were to demolish 500 shanties. The women residents, however, linked arms to block the team and negotiations lasted up to 4 p.m., prompting the MMDA to abort the demolition and try again today. In top photo, a woman and her children ponder their future under the flyover across the street where she had moved all their belongings. JOAN BONDOC

RP needs $16M more for Bicol typhoon rehab

By Christine O. Avendano

THE PHILIPPINES NEEDS $16 MILLION more in order to complete rehabilitation efforts in Bicol and other provinces badly hit by the four strong typhoons that struck the country late last year, according to the United Nations.

In a donors' briefing arranged by the Philippine government and the UN held at the Asian Institute of Management in Makati City, UN officials said the organization was making a second appeal for donation six months after the first appeal.

They said the UN system got a total commitment for assistance of $24.4 million from its humanitarian partners following the appeal.

Nileema Noble, UN Resident Coordinator and United Nations Development Program resident representative, said that to date, only $15 million had so far been realized from the commitments.

"There is still $10 million committed funds yet to be realized," Noble said.

Of the $15 million funds that were given, the UN used $12 million mostly in providing shelter and food for the homeless. Eighty percent of the funds were spent for people adversely affected in badly hit Albay, Catanduanes and Camarines Sur provinces.

She said that the visit early this week by President Macapagal-Arroyo in Bicol to look at the rehabilitation efforts there "created a positive atmosphere" for yesterday's donors' briefing.

The four typhoons that hit the country from Sept. 27 to Dec. 9 last year wreaked havoc on the Bicol provinces of Albay, Camarines Sur and Catanduanes the "hardest" and resulted in the deaths of 1,158 people, the displacement of 300,000 people, and caused large-scale damage to schools and health facilities and racked up total losses estimated at P20 billion, according to Dr. Krishna Vatsa, coordinator at the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator.

Vatsa said that the country needed $16.16 million more to finance "residual relief needs" such as food, health and shelter and for "early recovery needs" such as livelihood programs, nutrition and education.

Vatsa said 3,000 families were still living in evacuation and transit centers and that 30,000 families were in host communities to this day.

In the briefing, officials from the US embassy informed the group that US Ambassador Kristie Kenney on Wednesday committed $5 million in assistance for Bicol rehabilitation efforts.

A representative from the Australian government called on organizations and countries that committed assistance funds last year for the Philippines to honor their pledges.

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US equity act not yet final, RP war vets told

FILIPINO VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II and their families should not get too excited yet. The veterans equity bill that has long been pending in the United States has not yet been approved by the full US Congress. Neither has it been signed into a law.

This was the clarification yesterday of Asistant Secretary Jesus Terry Adevoso of the Presidential Assistant for Veterans Affairs, who said only the Senate version of the bill has been approved by the chamber's Veterans' Affairs Committee headed by Sen. Daniel Akaka of Hawaii.

The bill enables children of Filipino veterans of World War II to join their parents in the US. The US enlisted 200,000 Filipino youth into its military in the 1940s, promising they would get the same benefits and treatment as Americans.

"We have to issue this clarification," Adevoso said, "so that our veterans' ideas that this is already an approved measure will be corrected, or that their hopes for immediate approval will not be unduly raised. We also do not want them to fall victim to certain sweet-talking elements such as fixers who seek to victimize them with promises of facilitation of their equity claims which are still unfounded under US laws."

Adevoso added that "the Senate version of the equity bill will now have to be voted upon by the full 100-member US Senate in plenary, which we are informed could take place on July 27 of this year."

He said the Veterans Affairs Committee of the US House of Representatives headed by Rep. Bob Filner of California will likewise have to approve the House version of the equity bill. He said the House committee is still trying to refine and amend the bill with a pre-committee meeting scheduled today.

"There are still many vague areas of both equity bill versions that make up discussion points now and in the near future," Adevoso said.

HAIR APPARENT
Hair stylist Ricky Reyes (center), president of Fil-Hair Coop, poses with Filipino winners of the Southeast Asian-Far Eastern Hair and Beauty Competition held last weekend at the Highness Hotel in Taipei. They were led by Ronald Malaluan (third from left), champion in bridal make up and champion in bridal party make up. The others are (from left): Edgar Caballa of Ricky Reyes Hair Salon, Judge Lovely de Leon, Atlas Leonen and Benjie Alipio.

Gov't has no objection to Nur trip to Jeddah

By DJ Yap

THE GOVERNMENT SIGNALED IT WAS willing to allow detained Moro leader Nur Misuari to travel to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia to attend tripartite peace talks in mid-July.

The panel of lawyers prosecuting Misuari for rebellion told a Makati court yesterday it posed no objection to his motion for travel leave, but asked that the trip be permitted only under certain conditions.

"My trip to Jeddah is already a foregone conclusion. We're going to proceed and it's only a question of our embarkation dates," an optimistic Misuari said in an interview after the hearing.

But one of the defense lawyers, Salvador Panelo, later said this was not the case. "Let me correct that. It's still discretionary on the part of the judge," he said.

In a comment filed before Judge Winlove Dumayas of the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 59, the prosecution said it was agreeable to the idea of granting Misuari leave for the talks.

But the panel led by Assistant Chief State Prosecutor Leah Tanodra-Armamento and State Prosecutor Romeo Senson said the court should impose requirements, such as the deployment of sufficient security and strict compliance with the itinerary.

MNLF panel

Misuari is expected to lead the delegation of the Moro National Liberation Front in negotiations with the government peace panel and the Organization of Islamic Conference.

The Moro leader, who is under house arrest in New Manila, Quezon City, said there was some confusion on the matter of the dates.

In their comment, government lawyers said the tripartite meeting was on July 17 to July 19, and not the July 10 to July 15 date originally set by the panels. Misuari said that as far as he was concerned, the original dates stood.

The prosecution also sought other requirements:

- The travel shall be solely for the purpose of attending the meeting and "not for any other political purpose";
- The accused shall immediately return to his place of detention after the meetings;
- The lawyers shall guarantee Misuari's compliance with the court order.
- Their departure shall be done only after the submission by either the prosecution or the accused of the sovereign guaranty from Saudi Arabia assuring compliance with the order.

Senson said it was now up to Dumayas to decide whether to allow Misuari to leave for Jeddah.

Judge's call

"Before we made our comment, we consulted the Opapp (Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process). So in effect, our position is he can go. But of course, the judge will be the one to decide that," he told reporters.

Misuari said the peace talks should go a long way toward helping resolve the conflicts in the South.

"There has been a big problem in our region, particularly in the island of Jolo. We're engaging in a continuing war, but always in the exercise of self defense. We're always at the receiving end.

"With the talks, we can resume our march toward peace in Mindanao."

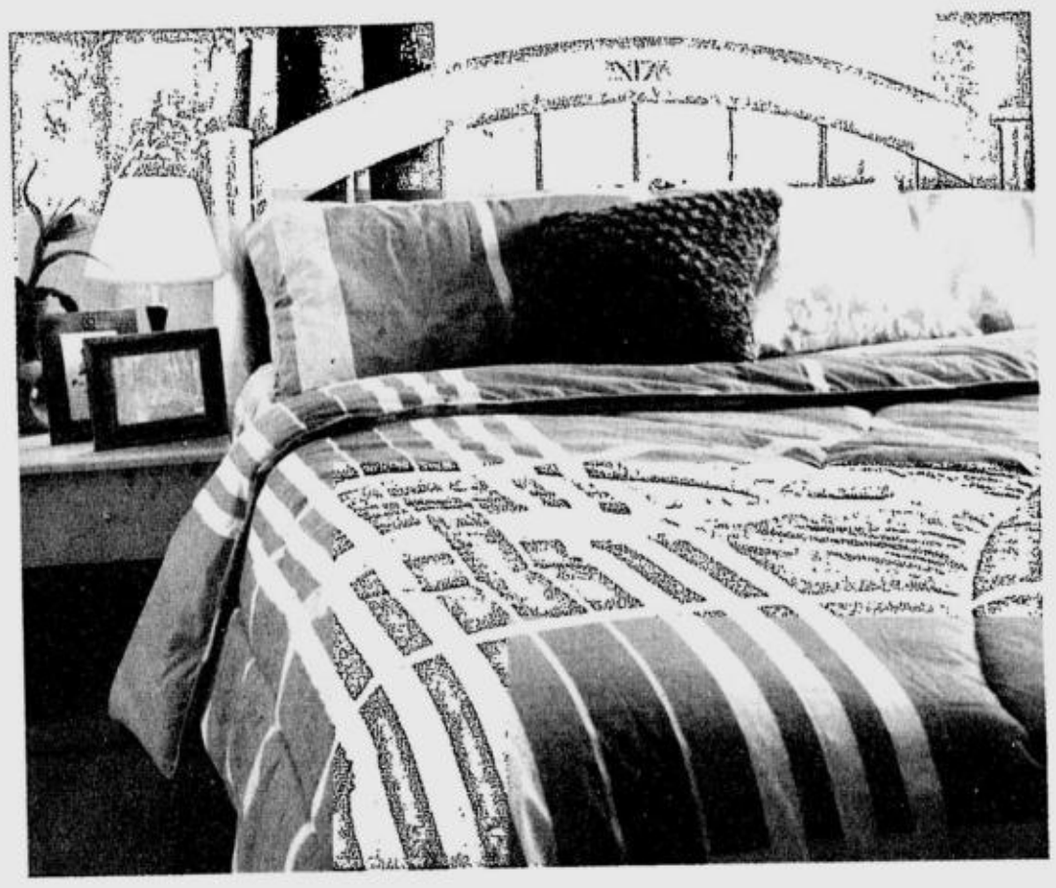
In his motion filed on June 29, Misuari asked to be allowed to leave with his spiritual adviser and coaccused Ustadz Usman on July 8 or 9 in time for the talks.

Misuari had said he was an "indispensable party to the tripartite meeting, or at the very least, his personal attendance will be conducive to a fruitful income."

Misuari also sought permission to be allowed to go on "umra," a lesser pilgrimage to "hajj," at Mecca, and have an audience with Saudi King Abdullah at his Royal Palace in Riyadh.

Misuari is facing rebellion charges in connection with an armed uprising by his followers in Jolo, Sulu in November 2001, and has been under house arrest since mid-2006.

At the last elections, Misuari ran for governor of Sulu and lost.



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Message

Our company marks another milestone for reaching its 7th year, thanks to the support of our dealers and the Filipino consumers who recognize the "value technology" that comes with every TCL television and other quality products that we market here in the Philippines.

TCl's corporate thrust for digital technology innovations reverberates all over the world as we affirm our leadership as a leading global TV manufacturer. In mid-March this year, we launched an amazing LCD anniversary promo as a way of saying "thank you" for your continued patronage amidst an encouraging response that exceeded our expectations.

LCD's and Slim-Flat TV's will continue to lead our product offerings as we move forward, armed with a resolute determination to pursue the corporate dream of providing the best products and services to all mankind.

The strong support from our headquarters overseas and the unwavering push from our valued dealers inspire TCL in the Philippines to continue serving millions of Filipino households in their search for total entertainment values that modern technology can genuinely offer.

Join us for a meaningful celebration of gratefulness in spirit and in our hearts.

ALEXANDER M. ESPIRITU
President
TCL SUN, INC.

My recent assignment in the Philippines comes at a very significant time when the company marks its 7th anniversary. I feel privileged to witness how much progress TCL has made here over the years.

Globally, TCL has become a leading TV manufacturer with a marketing and distribution network that spans many countries and regions across six continents. The strides that the brand has made to be where we are now are reflective of how much dedication and determination have been poured towards achieving substantial growth year after year.

We thank all our dealers and the consuming public who patronize our brand and the various products and models that we introduce in the Philippine market. Today's digital technology enables us to create product innovations and features that we could only dream in the past.

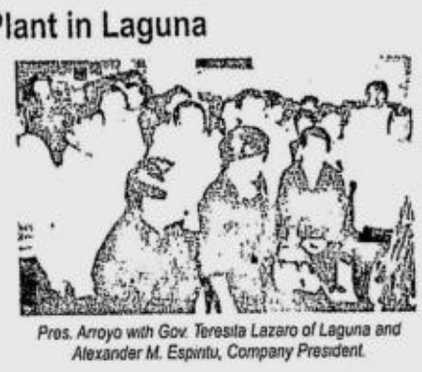
I hope to see TCL's continued thrust for value technology with every product and model so that more and more Filipinos can benefit from its usage. This way, we bring more beneficial value for the consumer, generate increased employment and promote corporate social responsibility.

Maraming salamat po.

FRANK ZHANG FENG
Vice President
TCL SUN, INC.

GMA Visits TCL Plant in Laguna

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo took time out from her hectic schedule to visit the TCL plant in Laguna in 2005. She joined the visiting overseas Ambassador who was in Manila for a joint meeting and commitments for more foreign investments in the country.



Pres. Arroyo with Gov. Teresita Lazaro of Laguna and Alexander M. Espiritu, Company President.

It will be recalled that President Arroyo also paid a courtesy call on TCL President Dr. Terry Yi of TCL Overseas SBU in September 2004. TCL Senior Executive Vice President Yuan Xingcheng briefed President Arroyo on the major achievements that TCL has made in recent years and introduced plans for future expansion. In that meeting, President Yuan disclosed that TCL has set the Philippines as a color TV manufacturing base.

Mayor Xu Guang Praises Philippine Operations

Mayor Xu Guang of Huizhou City, China made a brief visit to TCL plant to check on the progress of overseas businesses in the country. He was particularly impressed on TCL's performance as among the country's prominent players in the TV Industry. Since it began operations in 2001, TCL Sun, Inc. has made its mark as a high quality yet affordable brand of television and is recognized as an important business unit in TCL's global operations.

Mayor Xu Guang (center) together with Mr. Joseph Lim, TCL Sun Director (extreme right) and diplomatic officials.

The visit encouraged management to improve further its TV sales performance. He expressed confidence that TCL will continue to make inroads in the highly-competitive market of color televisions, particularly in Slim-Flat and LCD models.

TCL Gets International Model for Slim-Flat TV

TCL recently signed up international model Ariani Nogueira as image model for the brand's gew generation Slim-Flat TVs. She exudes a striking beauty that matches TCL's advanced features for today's fashionable home and modern lifestyle. She is shown with TCL President Alex M. Espiritu during the contract signing.

TCL Receives an Emmy Award

TCL received its first EMMY for the DDHD, the Digital Dynamic High Definition Vision Engine technology that are found in TCL;s LCD and PDP televisions. Considered as the TV Oscar Award, an Emmy represents the highest honor possible in the TV entertainment industry. The award has recognized excellence in all fields of television production for the past 32 years.

The DDHD Vision Engine's Emmy Award clearly demonstrates TCLs technical superiority through its synergy of global resources. People can now enjoy an award-winning entertainment wherever they may be.

Advancing Value Technology

As one of the country's top 5 sales performers in today's market for televisions, TCL rides high on its value technology and innovative product features that makes the brand a increasingly popular worldwide.

TCL's entry in the Philippine market seven years ago was met with keen interest on how it would fare amidst a highly competitive arena for televisions. More established popular brands have been lording it over for years! In an environment characterized by cut-throat competition and what may be aptly described as a "survival of the fittest" in terms of technology and perceived value for money, TCL went ahead, determined and committed.

While the road ahead was not easy, the brand's confident on what it had to offer and its perseverance to win the hearts and minds of consumers eventually paid off, consistently placing TCL among the top major players in the field.

Landing on the "Top 5" in a span of five years was indeed a no ordinary feat! In that same year, TCL was able to achieve 90% attainment of its own target with close to 40% growth over the previous year. RCA in the United States, TCL considers the Philippines as a key leadership market in Asia. Seven years of sustained growth has elevated the brand to be one of the more popular brands all over the country today, earning increased consumer acceptance and increased dealers' support. These alone are more than enough reasons to mark its seven years in the Philippines with great expectations and bright hopes for what lies ahead.

LCD 32V8SY

Innovations, Emerging Markets

TCL creates innovations through state-of-the-art technology, driven by its passion to become a formidable brand that delivers better customer satisfaction. At the height of summer this year, TCL offered its quality LCD televisions as an anniversary treat for the more discriminating Filipino households who desire for the ultimate in home viewing entertainment. The response exceeded expectations with units sold out within weeks!

Globally, TCL pursues its commitment to provide diversified products by producing hundreds of new models every year. In recent years it launched its Plasma TVs LCD-DVD TVs, Satellite TVs, Slim-Flat TVs, Digital Video and Digital Cameras among others. In 2004, TCL presented the world's lightest, slimmest and biggest DLP-TV.

Moving Forward with LCD

TCL introduced its LCD models last summer and promoted them as a special anniversary treat to the discriminating video enthusiasts. These models were 32V8SY and 20V8ST. A feast for the senses, TCL's LCD TVs offer world class features that are designed to enhance one's experience at home, at work or on the go.

TCL's LCD Series are high powered and fashionable. Each model has a list of features that go beyond the traditional LCDs, with added elegance for a truly powerful performance!

Expect more exciting LCD models from TCL this year.

SLIM BUT TERRIBLE

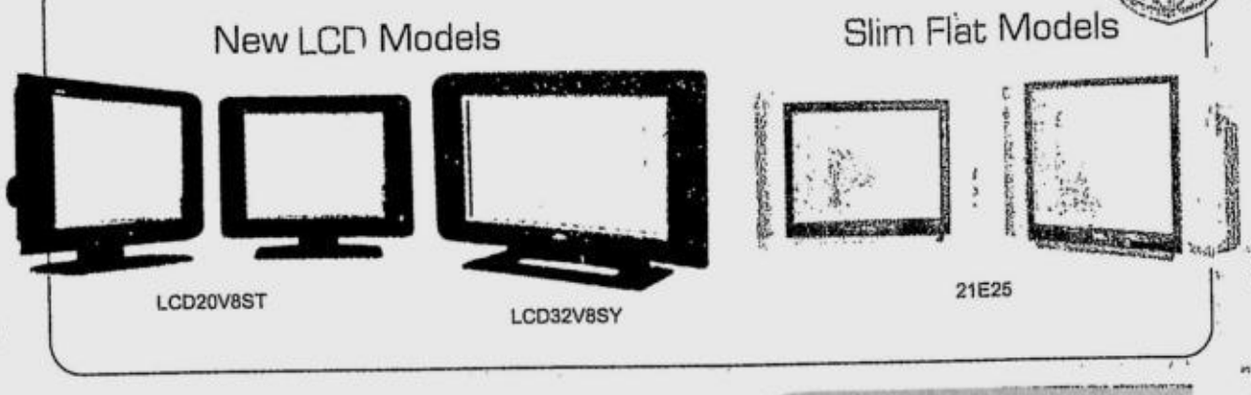
This is how the Advanced Slim-Flat Technology from TCL are best described. They are sleeker and more elegant and are available in 21E25, 21E20 and 29E20 models. The Slim-Flat TV is 33.3% slimmer than the old-style CRT TV and creates more space while one enjoys the flat-screen technology. Built in with striking picture quality, captivating stereo sound and economical display solutions, they easily fit one's home and lifestyle and most importantly, budget.

Management Performance Award

Two years in a row, TCL Sun, Inc. was the recipient of the Top Management Award for Best Operations, besting 17 subsidiaries worldwide. This is a result of TCL's direction to create a truly world class corporation where each subsidiary and business operations unit cooperate and promote TCL 's thrust to create value for customers, generate opportunities for employment and spawn benefits for society.

In the same light, company president Alex M. Espiritu has been awarded for two consecutive years as Excellent Overseas Manager, an accolade that speaks well for Philippine management operations. TCL has become a consistent top player in the TV Industry and is bent to enhance operations to promote its partnership with appliance dealers and Filipino consumers.

Top Management Award for Best Operations



The Creative Life

TCL

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Manny talks

EDITORIAL

THE WIDENING RIFT IN THE RANKS OF THE Senate opposition is deeply worrying, not only for those critical of the Arroyo administration but also for those of us who wish to see, in our lifetimes, greater political maturity.

The competing bids of oppositionists Manuel Villar and Aquilino Pimentel Jr. for the Senate presidency threaten to make the rift unbridgeable. We know whom to blame: Villar. In his transparent ambition to be in Malacañang in 2010, he is ready to link arms with administration senators—and in the process deny the opposition the majority status in the Senate it earned two months ago.

Politics is addition, of course, and Villar (or Pimentel) cannot be faulted for trying to reach across the aisle. That is what politicians do. But there is more to politics than mere arithmetic. The higher political math takes into account the magnitude and direction of public opinion.

Except for a few pro-administration die-hards, no one today seriously disputes the character of the senatorial race of the May 14 mid-term elections as a national referendum on the Arroyo administration.

We have said the following time and again, but perhaps they bear repeating.

First, the victory of at least seven opposition candidates—despite the administration's 12-0 strategy and its vaunted machinery—reveals the depth of public dissatisfaction with the administration.

Second, the victory of Alan Peter Cayetano, perceived by many as the target of dirty tricks by Malacañang-affiliated operatives, and of Antonio Trillanes IV, the Magdalo mutineer who ran for the Senate on a shoestring budget, proves the power of the public backlash. In the last two weeks of the 90-day campaign period, public perception of grossly unfair campaigning against the two candidates led to a surge of last-minute support that, in the end, could not be denied.

Third, the fate of the two administration candidates perceived to be most independent of the President. The reelection of Joker Arroyo and Edgardo Angara—unlike senator-in-waiting Jose Miguel Zubiri, they did not need the obviously manipulated votes of an entire province to claim victory—underscores the political reality: The President's endorsement in the Senate race was a drag on the endorsee's candidacy.

The message of May 14, in other words, was clear. The electorate, with the help of election watchdog groups who made sure its votes would in fact be reflected in the count, voted for an opposition Senate. It voted to strengthen the Senate precisely as an institution in the great constitutional checks-and-balances system. It voted to empower the Senate, to keep an increasingly assertive Executive in line.

The opposition's victory in the mid-term elections was a concrete expression of that unmistakable message.

We did not expect Villar, a direct beneficiary of that climate of public opinion, to be the first oppositionist to repudiate that message. (Unfortunately for the Philippine democratic project, he has since been joined by other opposition senators, Cayetano among them, offering their own rationalizations.)

Villar has apparently struck a deal with administration senators to back his bid for the Senate presidency. Instead of convincing his fellow opposition senators to achieve a consensus and choose a unity candidate, he has decided to triangulate his own colleagues by entering into an agreement with the administration's allies in the Senate. It's the "Manny coalition," Arroyo said.

Villar's decision cannot be justified as an act in the country's best interests, or even as an act of enlightened self-interest. It only has naked ambition written all over it. Not for the first time in his political career, Villar is perceived as transparently sacrificing principle for a political objective.

Worse, his decision spits in the face of the public which voted, overwhelmingly, for an opposition Senate. To secure the votes of administration senators, which committees did he promise them? Would the rout of administration candidates last May be followed, to give only one instance, with an administration senator chairing the blue ribbon committee?

Manny talks, yes, but apparently, as far as public opinion is concerned, he does not listen.

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Why not proclaim both Pimentel and Zubiri?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE MORE THE LINTANG BEDOL CAPER UNfolds, the more it would seem to a suspicious mind that Bedol is another Garci assigned to make administration candidates win in his territory, Maguindanao.

It may or may not be true, but the suspicious will think that there is a conspiracy among Malacañang, the Commission on Elections and Bedol. How explain the farce at the Comelec last Tuesday when Bedol was brought before the commissioners to explain why he should not be held in contempt? Instead of confronting him and, as commissioners boasted, making him "cringe like a cornered rat," the Comelec en banc merely told him to file a written explanation "within 10 days." And then, after the police used so many men and spent so many hours looking for him, the Comelec set him free. Instead of cringing like a cornered rat, Bedol left the Comelec offices with a smug look on his face, more like the cat that swallowed the canary. When the commissioners are no longer with the Comelec, they would make a good living as comedians. They just made the whole Comelec a laughingstock.

How explain Malacañang's admonition not to draw any premature conclusion on Bedol's caper? It seems Bedol has a reason to be cocky. He has powerful backers who have no choice but to protect him lest he spill the beans on them.

The Comelec is also making the suspicious believe that it is biased for Migz Zubiri, judging from its behavior as the National Board of Canvassers, denying due process to Koko Pimentel while canvassing the municipal CoCs from Maguindanao. Pimentel and his lawyers were not allowed to ask questions. After every question, Commissioner Nicodemus Ferrer directed them to "Please, sit down. Please sit down." Isn't this a denial of due process?

After leading Zubiri from the very beginning, Pimentel is about to lose the Senate seat that was already within his grasp until the counting of the controversial, tainted Maguindanao results that the Comelec itself had labeled "statistically improbable." Doesn't Pimentel have the right to ask questions about the CoCs that might make him a loser?

* * *

Whoever wins in the end, isn't it a shame that Pimentel or Zubiri has to lose? Both young men would make good senators—they're both talented and energetic. But only one of them can win; the other has to lose. What a waste.

But why proclaim only one winner when there is room for two after the resignation of Alfredo Lim, now mayor of Manila? Why not proclaim the 12th and 13th senatorial candidates as retired Supreme Court Justice Isagani Cruz suggested in his INQUIRER column? Isn't that a win-win solution to the present cliffhanger?

The legalistic will say there was no vacancy during the elections, before Lim resigned, so there could not have been any election for the 13th senator. But that is only a technicality. The substantial reality is that the 24-member Senate is left with one vacancy with the departure of Lim. And there is a legal principle that in a choice between technicality and substance, the latter wins.

Sure, there is no law that says the Comelec can proclaim a 13th senator. But there is also no law that says it can't. After all, it was a retired Supreme Court justice that first suggested it, so there must be some legal basis for it. And didn't the Supreme Court praise the Comelec for taking "creative solutions" to an "unusual situation"? The Supreme Court was referring to the decision of the Comelec to gather municipal CoCs in Maguindanao to take the place of the CoCs that Bedol lost, an action that is not in the Comelec rules.

Well, isn't the present case an unusual situation, too? The Comelec is faced with CoCs whose authenticity is under question as they could have been manufactured since they surfaced more than a month after the election. Moreover, some teachers testified that no election took place in their areas and that they were forced by armed men to fill up blank CoCs with the names and votes for Team Unity candidates. Logic dictates that they should not be counted and a failure of elections be declared in Maguindanao.

But the local candidates have already been proclaimed so there was no failure of election. Justice Cancio Garcia said that not counting the senatorial votes would "disenfranchise" Maguindanao voters. Yes, but counting votes for candidates they may not have voted for would also effectively disenfranchise them. And think of the injustice to the candidate who would lose because of tainted votes.

Justice Antonio Carpio said Pimentel should have pushed for the counting of election returns. Why not? That would be better than counting questionable CoCs. It is much harder to manufacture so many election returns than two dozen CoCs.

But the Comelec is still in a bind. Isn't that an "unusual situation" that requires a "creative solution"? And isn't proclaiming a 13th senatorial candidate to fill up a vacancy such a "creative solution"? After all, the Comelec is an independent body with plenary powers. If somebody questions it, then let the Supreme Court decide whether or not it did right. Meanwhile, isn't that a win-win solution that would make everybody happy?

* * *

Tomorrow, July 7, 2007 (777) is your lucky night. You can listen to many of the world's best singers live—Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, the Beatles, Nat King Cole, Sammy Davis Jr., Tony Bennett, Johnny Mathis, Paul Anka, Andy Williams, Matt Monroe, Cliff Richard, to name a few—at the Music Museum. Actually, the different voices will come from only one man, the man with many voices and faces, Willie Nepomuceno. See him at the "Feelin' Las Vegas" show tomorrow night.

Senior citizens' discount

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

"THERE AIN'T NO SUCH THING AS A FREE lunch"—or free medicine, for that matter. So who's paying for the senior citizens' 20-percent discounts in drugstores? Both the government and the drugstores, the Supreme Court seems to say.

The Supreme Court has upheld the Expanded Senior Citizens' Act, providing for discounts for the elderly in hotels, restaurants and drugstores but allowing these businesses to recover the loss through tax deductions. The law is an example of legislation for redistributive justice, and reminds us that even the best intentions need to be financed from somewhere.

My own dilemma with the act, especially as it pertains to medicines, is that it should have shifted the cost to the giant pharmaceuticals, rather than the retailers. The Court's reply, as I see it, is: Let the market take care of itself, and let the retailers do battle with the pharmaceuticals. (The decision does not appear in the Court's website, and I am constrained to rely on snippets from the INQUIRER news page.)

Several drugstore owners impugned the law as "confiscatory," which has a specific meaning in constitutional law. There are, of course, dramatic cases of brazen "takings" of private property. In this case, however, the claim is that they are being forced to sell goods at a loss, and are in effect coerced into subsidizing a government program. Their markup is 5 to 10 percent, while the legislated discount is 20 percent. Next, they claim that they cannot fully recover that loss through tax deductions, which would list the discounted amount as an expense.

The Court cited the power of the state to regulate property, since indeed the drugstores had invoked their property right against uncompensated takings. In constitutional law, however, the historic Lochner case—dealing with a law that protected the health of bakery workers by fixing maximum hours of work—cast the problem differently. The state, the Lochner case said, was regulating, not property, but contract, namely, the employment contract between the worker and his boss, and—following the laissez faire theory—the liberty of contract means that each was completely free to sign or not sign that contract. (In this case, what we have is a contract of sale between the drugstore and the senior citizen.)

The Lochner case provoked one of the most famous dissents by the great Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., speaking for the workingman. "This case is decided upon an economic theory which a large part of the country does not entertain. [M]y agreement or disagreement [with laissez faire] has nothing to do with the right of a majority to embody their opinions in law. [A] Constitution is not intended to embody a particular economic theory, whether of paternalism ... or of laissez faire."

Strangely, in this case, the Court did a little of both the Lochner majority and the Holmes dissent. It echoes Holmes' welfare state paternalism when it says that the 1987 Constitution empowers the state to advance the public good through the broad grant of "police power." It is not clear from the news account if the Court likewise cited the "eminent domain" clause, but it is important to maintain that distinction. If it's police power, then the government has no duty to compensate the drugstore owners. If it's eminent domain, it must pay. (The fundamental basis is that in the former, the regulation is for the benefit of all and traditionally targets nuisances and public hazards, while the latter benefits specific persons.)

In the earlier redistributive cases, namely, in land reform, the Court called them "revolutionary takings," a hybrid, a little of both kinds of powers. It isn't clear if this was cited, or in what way it can be applied here.

But what I find rather perplexing is the Court's rejection of the drugstore owners' 5 to 10 percent markup. "It is a business decision [by] the petitioners to peg the markup at 5 percent. Selling the medicines below acquisition cost ... is merely a result of this decision." In other words, the drugstores were free to compete in the open market and price their medicines high enough to cover the legislated 20 percent discount. Tough luck that the market is so competitive. (Since all drugstores are covered by the same law, how can a 20 percent markup be noncompetitive?)

Suddenly the Court was laissez faire! Told that the drugstore owners are losing money, the Court does a Marie Antoinette and says, "Let them eat *siopao*!" The sad effect of this open invitation to jack up prices is that in order to maintain a sectoral benefit for the senior citizens, the drugstores will raise prices across the board and burden all other non-seniors who use the same drugs. (The best that the drugstores can do is to pinpoint specifically those drugs that are demographically specific to the senior citizen market.)

During the drafting of the Constitution, there were distinct camps in the drafting commission—on one hand, the activists who favored heavy state regulation, and on the other, the free marketers who would allow the market to flourish on its own. You can detect their influence in mangled clauses where the Constitution tries to make both sides happy. In the year 2007, if there is one lesson our 20-year-old Constitution has taught us, it is that the state is the most inept agency for social justice and that it would have to work hand-in-hand with the private sector. The senior citizens' law is one such experiment.

Finally, when the drugstore owners were planning their litigation strategy and chose to do battle before the Supreme Court, I wonder if they bothered to count how many of the justices were already senior citizens.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Coming of age at UP

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES' ANnual alumni reunion was held recently and the Diliman Republic was awash in nostalgia and the politics of memory. Attending as a "golden jubilarian" after coming of age in the UP of the 1950s is certainly a compelling milestone in my life.

Every UP generation thinks that theirs was the "golden age" of innocence, exploration, discovery, understanding and a growing sense of self-assurance in the halls of academe. The UP of the 1950s was a pristine and serene environment that was ideal for acquiring new modes of social and intellectual engagement. Gone was the routine learning by rote in high school. We were introduced to logic, analysis, interpretation, symbolism and thinking in the abstract. Our minds were open to new ideas and learning was relatively easy, thanks to the high intellectual absorptive capacity of youth. We looked forward to the sheer joy of learning for learning's sake. Learning new concepts in the classroom was enough to make our day. We became relatively literate at a young age.

Having become a teacher generations later, that certainly is no longer the case with students who now generally treat learning as a joyless chore, in part due to the many distractions attending modern higher education. Part of my theory is that students these days no longer read as much and as deep as we did in those days.

I chose to major in English because that was the elite department at the time, with a formidable faculty and challenging snob appeal. Everyone dreaded Cholang Lorenzo who gave improbable grades like 3.2 or 3.9 in her comparative literature courses. Visiting professor Leonard Casper from Boston College taught us American literature from Melville to Hemingway. N.V.M. Gonzalez was a very animated and engaging teacher in creative writing. We learned about local color and "verisimilitude" while reading from his own short stories like "Seven Hills Away."

One of the most authoritative professors we had was Consuelo Fonacier, who would physically straighten you up while coaching you how to speak in public. Knowing about my interest in literature, she suggested that I take a course taught by a new faculty member who was her niece. It turned out to be Leticia Ramos (Shahani) who had just arrived from Columbia. She introduced us to English literature. Poet Virgie Moreno educated us on Shakespeare and crafted the first Humanities course in the curriculum.

I wish I could mention all my mentors because the reason I believe we were such good students was that we had such good and dedicated teachers. We were reading difficult pieces like "Beowulf," "War and Peace," "Moby Dick," "No Exit," "Crime and Punishment" and "Ulysses." We got the thrill of our young lives when William Faulkner gave a public lecture in Diliman after winning the Nobel Prize. His theme was about man's not only enduring but prevailing. We didn't know about US southern oppression, but we understood.

Life outside our English "enclave" gravitated to the larger campus where issues like student activism and academic freedom were beginning to divide the Diliman constituency. Fr. John Delaney, godfather to the UP Student Catholic Action, took aim at fraternities and sororities whose initiation practices resulted in at least one fatal hazing of a neophyte. The frats in turn castigated Delaney for sectarianism and interfering with academic freedom. The highly articulate English professor J.D. Constantino, on the side of Delaney, debated the "Slow Death of an Institution" with Philosophy professor Armando Bonifacio. Student Council president Fernando Lagua and Collegian editor Homobono Adaza were to be given their walking papers from UP.

Francisco Nemenzo Jr. (later to become UP president) was the preeminent Marxist on campus. Jose Maria Sison and Nur Misuari were two years behind us. Student activism would peak in the 1960s. It would take issue with the "cultural colonization" that socialized us in the 1950s.

We, products of UP in the 1950s, have taken different paths in our life careers. I have gravitated to the more empirical world of social science, in particular political science, public administration, and area studies with reference to Philippine Studies. Some have shifted to Anthropology, Psychology, Economics and other professional areas. Others, of course, stuck with the basic discipline.

But whatever we have become, the indisputable fact remains that our liberal arts training at UP in the 1950s was our "coming of age," that "defining moment" in our lives, which is like a liberation of sorts because we have overcome our earlier bewilderment and risen to a new level of consciousness. In effect, therefore, this reunion is not just about nostalgia and remembrance of things past, but a history of our own consciousness as human beings.

Belinda A. Aquino, University of Hawaii at Manoa professor and director of Philippine Studies for the past 32 years, was vice president for Public Affairs at UP in 1989-1991 and Most Distinguished Alumna for International Achievement in the 2003 UP Alumni Association in America reunion in Houston, Texas.

'Tom yum' talk

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

ONE OF MY JOYS IN LIFE IS HAVING A SOUTHEAST ASIAN *barkada* (group of close friends), and being able to have meetings with them a few times each year. The *barkada* consists of professors from various universities in the region—the Philippines, Laos, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam—that have formed a consortium on gender and sexuality.

We greet each year with a *wai*, the Thai way, bringing the palms together like the Indian *namaste*, or with a handshake followed by a hand brought back to the heart, the Muslim way. We ask about each other's families and exchange photographs. I'm the late starter with parenting, so I get to boast more about my babies.

Even if we live in a region where honorific terms are important—*Pak* (Uncle), *Ajan* (Professor), for example—we greet each other by first names. Yes, congratulations were still in order such as when Darwin of Gadja Mada University became a full-fledged Professor Doktor, even as we wait for two more junior colleagues—Giang of Vietnam and Irwan of Indonesia—to finish their doctoral studies.

Away from each other, we send greetings for the many holidays of our diverse cultures: the Filipino Christmas, the Muslim Eid Al Fitr, the Thai and Lao Songkran (New Year's Day in April!). We sent regrets to Pim of Mahidol for not being able to join her wedding on a cruise down the Chao Phrya River.

Then, too, we'd dash off anxious e-mails and phone calls for less auspicious events: the tsunami that hit Thailand and Indonesia, the earthquake in Yogyakarta, Philippine typhoons, the Thai coup, the attempted Philippine coup (led by now Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV).

GNP, corruption

Sometimes we sit and compare GNPs (Gross National Product), not actual figures but rough ones. One time, Giang of Vietnam told us about how their newspapers were always comparing the Vietnamese GNP with that of Singapore, and how many decades it would take to catch up. Other times, we'd compare perceived corruption ratings from Transparency International, again kidding each other, hey, has the Philippines overtaken Indonesia yet? We know the rankings are relative. Corruption is corruption, whatever the rank, and the ones who suffer most in all our countries, regardless of ranking, are the poor.

Liberals all, we worry about the rise of fundamentalism in our countries, particularly the Islamic variety in Indonesia and the Christian version in the Philippines. We share common stories of conservatives blocking HIV/AIDS education campaigns, of bars being closed down only to drive sex workers underground and beyond the reach of educators. We worry about how women are once again becoming sequestered with the same kind of "save the family" rhetoric, even as thousands of our women are exported as domestic help, caregivers, entertainers.

In fairness, the Indonesians are impressed with what the Philippines has done for overseas workers. Even with all our problems, we do have more regulations and safety nets in place than the Indonesians, who entered the overseas labor export market much later than we did.

Interestingly, the Thais are worried not about the exported labor but about the illegal migrants who stream into their country, mainly from Burma, and who are always vulnerable to abuse.

Tsunami and fog

At a recent meeting, we remembered the Asian financial crisis that began in Thailand in July 1997, 10 years ago. Dubbed as the Asian flu, the crisis began when foreign investors lost confidence in the region and began to pull out their speculative investments from the stock market and from foreign exchange dealings. The first tremors were in Thailand and then spread like a tsunami to neighboring capitalist countries: Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia.

The Thais called it the *tom yum* crisis, referring to a soup made from galangal ginger, kaffir lime leaves, lemon grass, fish sauce, chili pepper and various other condiments. The blend is hard to describe; hot but mildly sweet.

Which was how the effects of the financial crisis were characterized. Bangkok's infamous traffic disappeared overnight as millionaires found themselves laden with debt, trying to get rid of their luxury cars, condos and jewelry at rock-bottom prices, often with no takers. There were bargains to be found everywhere, including five-star hotels offering rooms for as low as $40, cheaper than our 3-star establishments, but again there were few takers.

The Philippine peso dropped from about P25 to P48 to a dollar within a year. Inflation and unemployment rose. If it had not been for remittances from overseas workers, our Gross National Product (GNP) would have turned negative.

The crisis alerted us to how closely interconnected Southeast Asian countries had become. If one country sneezed, we'd all come down shortly with a flu.

A few years ago, we did have another kind of experience with that interconnectedness, when Indonesian smog from forest fires reached neighboring countries, causing local outbreaks of asthma and other respiratory illnesses.

Sometimes though we shouldn't wait for actual physical contagion to learn lessons. During our last consortium meeting, Darwin told me about a disaster in East Java last year, when a company drilling for natural gas somehow triggered mud flow from a nearby volcano. One village ended up covered by six meters of mud. Some 400 hectares of farmlands ended up inundated. The culprit, a company called Lapindo, eventually promised to pay $420 million for reconstruction.

I thought about that mudflow recently, after reading about how a South Korean company was trying to set up a spa by tapping into Taal volcano.

Recovery?

Ten years after the *tom yum* crisis, Thailand has recovered and so have we. Back in the late 1990s, we all wailed about our deteriorating currencies. These days we cry about how the US dollar has become very weak, to the point where I've had Manila taxi drivers offering change in US dollars. No one wants the greenback.

Today my Southeast Asian *barkada* sees some similarities with 1997, when foreigners were coming in with hot money to play with our currencies and stocks. When they lose confidence, they can just pull out, and leave us wondering what hit us. One country messing up could mean the entire region suffering.

I try to be optimistic, arguing that reforms have taken place in the banking system, in government regulations, but I know there's a bit of whistling in the dark there.

Good times and bad, we're in it together, and the "club" is expanding. China and Vietnam, newcomers to the global market system, are developing almost recklessly. When China's stock market dipped a few months back, the New York Stock Exchange followed suit, and so did the Philippine Stock Exchange.

One time over lunch and yes, *tom yum*, we talked about governance in the region and wondered, maybe we do live now in a post-State era, where we manage to survive not because of, but in spite of our leaders. *Tom yum* talk, pungent and spicy.

More on 'improper' wear

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

A FRIEND OF MINE ONCE WROTE OF THE Catholic priests who ran the boys' high school he went to that "when bell bottoms were all the rage, they decreed that only narrow pants would be allowed in school; when skin-tight pants became popular, they issued an order that all of us would have to wear loose pants."

Discerning the logic behind school rules, especially those of Catholic schools, has always been a difficult task. But the task becomes even more formidable when it comes to making sense of their dress codes. In the all-girls' high school I went to, we solved the problem of adhering to the fashion of the day—which was miniskirts—when we left the school premises by the simple expedient of folding our waistbands until our skirts were short enough. But when I went to college, the style trend had shifted to the "maxi," skirts that nearly grazed the ground. Puzzlingly, school authorities likewise frowned on long skirts, stating our uniforms should adhere to "regulation" length.

I guess when it comes to authorities and fashion the commandment seems to be: Thou shalt not be fashionable.

I don't think fashion was the issue when the Archdiocese of Manila, through the Liturgical Ministry, issued its "guidelines" on proper and improper attire during Sunday Masses and other religious events. As the circular on the guidelines said, it was all about "dignity" and the "sacredness of the Eucharistic celebration."

Or as my good friend Peachy Yamsuan, who heads the media relations office of the Archdiocese, said in a letter: "The general principles for the suggestions are propriety, respect and decency." This shouldn't be taken to mean that "an attire should be dressy or pricey to be proper, respectful and decent," she adds.

* * *

AS Peachy tells it, the move to issue the circular was "prompted by requests from many parishioners and churchgoers," including "lectors and commentators, special ministers of Holy Communion, choir members, altar servers, and collectors and greeters."

Lay ministers, she noted, "would complain about people (receiving) Communion in 'improper attire...' (raising) the point that while all those assisting at Mass, from the priest to the lay ministers, to the choir, collectors, altar servers, all come in special garb—white shirt or barong, black skirts or tailored pants, etc.—some Mass-goers can just come in these (improper) clothes."

The complaints "reached a crescendo last year," Peachy recounts, "when the fashion was low-rise tight jeans, mini-skirts, hanging or mid-rib blouses, 'lingerie-like' tops, etc."

"When the Liturgical office decided to act on the complaints," she adds, "it wanted to do so in the most sober way possible. I should know because I was one of those asked to give creative suggestions on how to do it. We didn't want to sound as if it was a code with punitive provisions. What we wanted was to remind, to encourage. Initially the plan was just to point out what is not deemed proper. But then some said that since we were pointing out things anyway, why not make suggestions on what is proper. Certainly the suggestions on the proper attire are to be taken on a best effort mode, while those on improper (wear) should best be avoided. But there is certainly no suggestion or order for policing, or to disallow entry to the church to those in 'improper attire.'"

* * *

MY friend takes issue with the points I raised about the poor, and how the new guidelines on "proper" and "improper" attire might further deter them from attending Sunday Mass.

"We give the poor short shrift," she declares, "as if by being poor they cannot be properly attired. Go to Blumentritt and Singalong and see how properly attired the vendors of the markets there are when they come to Mass. Go to Tondo. I think it is because the poor know why they go to Church, why they attend Mass. They may have only one shirt, or one pair of pants but they wear these to church on a Sunday."

The new guidelines, Peachy says, are not actually directed at the more impoverished sector of the Catholic faithful. Instead, the guidelines are "for those who come to Mass in exercise clothes because they have to go to the gym after, who come in sports shorts because they have to go to play badminton after."

Well, I don't know about that. Though the guidelines are supposed to be mere "suggestions" with no effort at policing churchgoers or throwing out violators, guess who'll be the ones intimidated by the "suggestions"? Not the neighbors and friends and even relatives of the parish's lay leaders, certainly, who would bristle at any suggestion of impropriety. Who were the faithful in that front-page photo of "improperly" clad Mass-goers? Obviously, they belonged to the lower strata of society. Wealthier Catholics have a tendency to sue for libel, after all.

* * *

I DO agree with Peachy that "in the end it is really about the attitude and disposition," that it is "not about wearing a baseball cap, but about the attitude of wearing a baseball cap to Mass. Why?"

Which is why, as I wrote in my column, it shouldn't be all about whether someone bares her shoulders or is covered from head to toe while in Church. It should be about "attitude and disposition," some of which can be gleaned from one's outfit, true, whether one took the trouble to come to Church dressed in one's most decent clothes. But even the young lass in low-rise pants and spaghetti-strapped top could conceivably be hearing Mass with the proper attitude and disposition. It is possible she sees no malice in the way she is dressed, while others can only ascribe it to her, based on nothing but her appearance.

Missing pieces

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

THIS YEAR THE US EMBASSY IN MANILA CELEbrated its National Day a day early on July 3 rather than the traditional Fourth of July. When I asked if this was done for security reasons or whether they were just copying the example of the Philippines that now has moveable holidays, I was given the very diplomatic and pragmatic explanation that Ambassador Kristie Kenney moved the celebrations so that the staff could actually have a day off on July 4. If the party was held on July 4 then the embassy staff still would have had to report for work and entertain guests during a holiday.

In the past, when globalization had not yet interfered with food distribution, I looked forward to the July 4 reception for the hotdogs, corn on the cob and ice cream that flowed behind the chancery ballroom facing Manila Bay. These days, the embassy has a very good caterer that serves an international spread, and I seem to be the only one who is nostalgic about the flavor of a typical backyard cookout that is a taste of America.

On Monday, July 4, 1898, there was a naval blockade of Manila. I wonder how the victorious George Dewey celebrated on his flagship, or whether there were individual celebrations in the other ships. There was an international fleet on Manila Bay waiting for developments. Japanese, French, British and German ships waited and small vessels flying our flag flitted about.

There is a short turn-of-the-century film, entitled "Aguinaldo's Navy," that you can watch and download from the US Library of Congress which maintains a page called "American Memory." When I saw this on the catalogue, I clicked on the link hoping to find pride in history. Well, the film was shot on location in the Philippines and what was said to be Aguinaldo's Navy was merely a group of fishing vessels moving about. The highlight of the scene shows a banca with a Pinoy furiously paddling at the rear. Now that was Aguinaldo's Navy. In contrast, Dewey's navy was composed of metal-plated, steam-propelled ships with cannons and guns.

When I show this film to my students, they all laugh and then they understand what the balance of power was like in the Philippines in 1898. That's when history strikes home.

On the French warship was an officer who published his 1898 diary under the name "Lieutenant X" in four installments in Revue de Paris. We have since uncovered his true identity as Aime Ernest Motsch. His diary has been rescued from the dustbin of history through an excellent English translation by the late Marietta Enriquez-de la Haye Jousselin, who went beyond mere collecting of Filipiniana in Paris and made some of these obscure French works better known to interested Filipino readers. Lieutenant X gave us the sentiment of the times and it is worth re-reading 109 years later if only to give us some historical perspective:

"At 8 o'clock the flag is hoisted [on the American ships]. It is the Independence Day anniversary of the United States. A hundred and twenty years ago, these people did not constitute a nation. Three hundred years before that, they were, literally speaking, as distant from humanity as our planet is from Uranus or Saturn. And here they are grabbing the last stronghold of Spain, the Spain which brought them into existence. What must the ghosts of Magellan, Columbus, Charles V and Isabela think of this situation?

"Meanwhile, on land, it appears that the Tagals are furious at the Americans and blame them for having dispatched black troops to the Philippines. The Tagal feels humiliated for being regarded in the same light as the Negro and is quite aware that to the Yankees there is no difference. Aguinaldo himself must sooner or later make a choice: either relieve himself of the Americans or submit to them. Admiral Dewey's game is well hidden; he will not put his cards on the table until the end of the month, when all advantages will be on his side—the 15,000 men and additional ammunition. And even then, bringing the Tagals into submission will not be as easy as he thinks.

"An Englishman who knows the Filipinos well made the following observation: 'America has not conquered the Philippines yet, and will occupy the country only with the help and goodwill of the people.' The occupation of Manila does not imply that they have taken possession of the Philippines, in much the same way that possession of New York would not signify possession of the whole American empire. It is my firm belief that without the consent of the natives, neither the United States nor any power can hope to become the master of the Philippines with less than 200,000 men, whatever one may want to believe... In a country like the Philippines, a soldier must have the agility of a mountain goat to be on equal footing with these natives."

It was recommended that an independent government under US protection be established to solve the problem of the Philippines. No doubt Aguinaldo was fed this and other options. The rest, as the cliché goes, is history.

Why didn't Aguinaldo strike when he could? Why did he wait till the Americans gained advantage? Going by stray accounts like this, we will never know. The jigsaw puzzle is not only large, there are many missing pieces.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Time to give top priority to health and environment

NOW THAT PUBLIC OFFICIALS elected during the May 14 polls formally have taken their oath of office before their jubilant supporters, we, from the EcoWaste Coalition, appeal to them to make community health and environment a top priority and a hallmark of their public service.

We urge them to use their leadership and management skills in rallying the public behind policies and programs that instill ecological awareness, responsibility and action toward the restoration and care of our ravaged environment.

We exhort them to take the lead in clearing up our littered streets, in unclogging the waterways, in stopping the open burning and dumping of discards, and in deterring habits and attitudes that disrespect Mother Nature and harm people's health—through community education and mobilization, as well as through the enforcement of laws and ordinances.

We appeal to all provincial, city and municipal councils to set ambitious waste diversion targets for the next three years—targets that can be easily accomplished through proactive measures that will prevent and minimize the generation of trash, such as imposing bans and restrictions on problematic materials, promoting intensive reuse, repair and recycling programs for non-biodegradable items, and the composting of organic discards.

We ask them to overcome the obsolete and costly collect-dispose syndrome, and instead support and fund Ecology Centers or Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) for a truly community-driven movement that will dramatically reduce trash and, subsequently, the number of trucks that hauls and unloads rubbish into polluting dumps.

While imploring our public officials to remain faithful to their vow to serve the people's needs, we ask everyone to assert and fulfill our right to participate and contribute to building cleaner, healthier and safer communities for our children.

—ROY ALVAREZ,
vice chair, EcoWaste Coalition,
Unit 320, Eagle Court,
26 Matalino St., Quezon City

LETTERS

Cockfight in RP before Spaniards

MA. DANA EVANGELISTA IN THE INQUIRER's June 21 issue, wrote that "cockfighting was brought into the country by our Spanish colonizers. This is a fact that we were supposed to have learned in our primary grades."

It is not a fact at all. Magellan's chronicler, Pigafetta, wrote that he witnessed cockfighting in Palawan in June 1521. There was no need for the Spaniards to bring in what was already here.

She can check this out in Vol. 33 of Blair and Robertson's 55-volume compilation of Philippine documents. Probably it can be found in the Internet.

—BENITO LEGARDA JR.,
7 Polk St., Greenhills,
San Juan City

Public officials bound by code

THIS IS IN REPLY TO SALOME G. Saro's reaction to my letter "Immature politics, disrespectful solons." (INQUIRER, 6/30/07)

Persons who serve in government, particularly those who are elected, have obligations to follow not only by force of laws governing their positions, but also by force of ethical standards and code of conduct. For instance, they are required to be in an attire befitting one who has been privileged to sit in the company of veteran and experienced lawmakers.

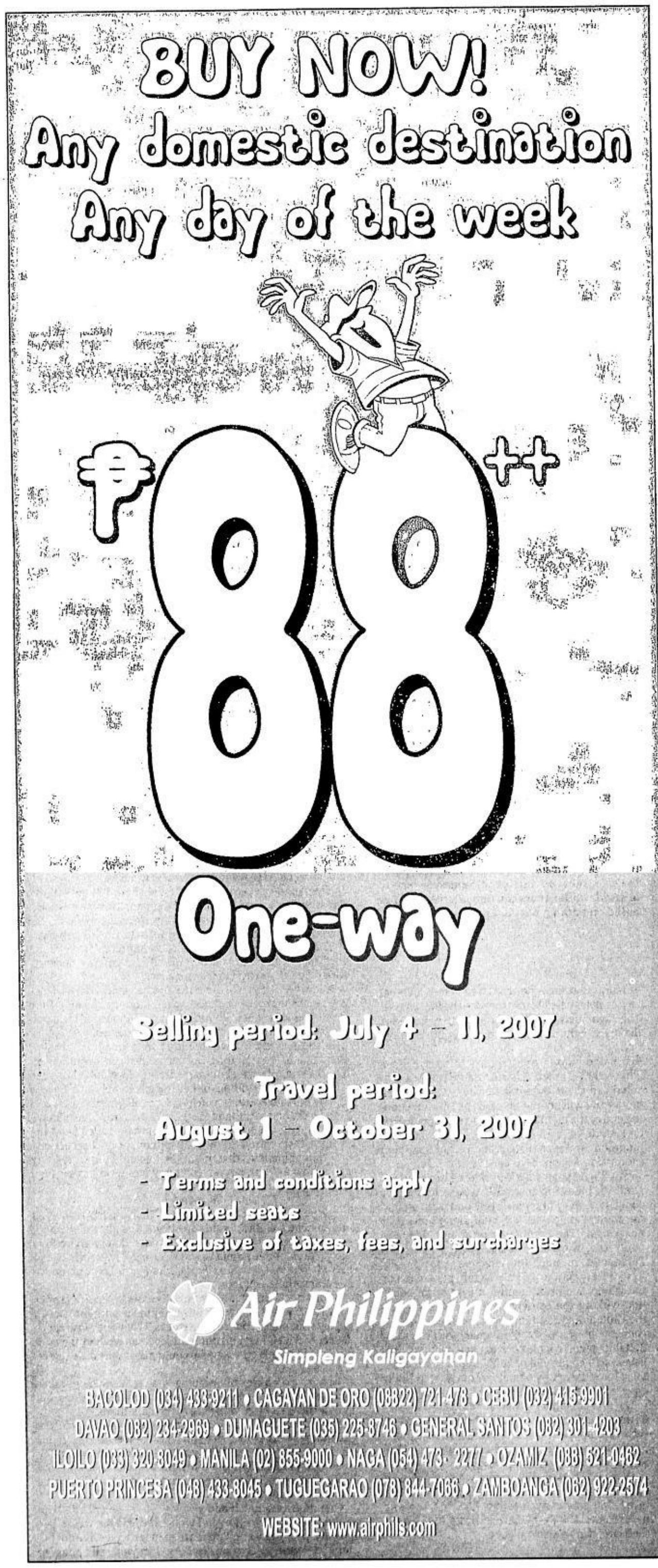
The body that was tasked to oversee the elections may not have any credibility; it may not enjoy the public's confidence. The head of that body may not command the respect due his position. But the achievement of the two Genuine Opposition candidates—an achievement that eluded many of their Team Unity rivals—should, at least, have given them enough "sense of glory" to "dress" for the occasion (proclamation). I am not talking about "fashion sense." I am talking about "propriety." If they meant to insult the Commission on Elections or belittle the proclamation rites, maybe they would have done better not to attend the event.

Government officials and politicians should serve as models for the citizens. The two GO candidates lack sensitivity and good judgment.

I voted for Senator-elect Benigno Aquino III because of his father's legacy and his mother's devotion to peace and unity in the country. Like I said before, I am not pro-administration; there are many things that the administration has left "undone."

But with changes and new faces in government, one can always hope for the best, a better future for all. This is certainly not the time for grandiloquence or self-serving arrogance. This is a time to temper one's ego and to put heads together.

—ANA MA. ESPERANZA C. RAGRAGIO,
Lagro Subd., Quezon City



Apology for 'unpleasant' service at DMIA

THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CLARK INTERnational Airport Corp. (CIAC) appreciates the concerns aired by Johanna de Asis, a recent passenger of Air Asia at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA), in her letter. (INQUIRER, 6/29/07)

We are extending our sincerest apology to De Asis for having endured such unpleasant experience at the DMIA amid our concerted efforts to improve services for departing and incoming passengers. The relatively new airport is going through "birth pains," and at this point we are tying to calibrate every aspect of airport operations for the sake of travelers.

In a bid to make things convenient for passengers, CIAC will provide a "temporary holding" area with tents, benches and electric fans. A lighting system will also be installed in the tents while more "gang chairs" will be provided for both passengers and the public. CIAC will also subject its employees to retraining and reorientation, and it will support agency personnel in providing good customer service to our clients. An interagency coordination meeting will be held regularly to smoothen the edges as far as customer service is concerned.

To attend to passenger needs and inquiries, CIAC will field personnel who will man its "Passenger Assistance" and "Public Assistance" desks in the Passenger Terminal and assist, as well as maintain good relations with, customers to make departure and arrival at the DMIA a memorable and lasting experience. Korean OJTs or volunteers will be tapped to assist Korean passengers at night and bridge language gaps. Meanwhile, passenger facilitation will be referred to the Passenger Assistance Desk; CIAC now discourages "escort services" to keep windows of corruption closed.

Complaints can now also be addressed to my office through cell phone No. 09203819781; or to the CIAC Public Affairs Office through cell phone No. 09193105178 or through e-mail address publicaffairs@clarkairport.com and apsanpedro@yahoo.com

To provide DMIA passengers with more convenience, CIAC looks toward increasing the DMIA Passenger Terminal's passenger capacity, this amid plans of local carriers—Philippine Airlines and Cebu Pacific—to make Clark their hub. An expanded DMIA Passenger Terminal will be more convenient to travelers because passengers can be accommodated at the spacious lounge area as they wait for their international and domestic flights.

For OFWs, CIAC will soon launch "Global Pinoy" wherein they will be allowed free use of telecommunication facilities, cell phone loads and refreshments—just to honor them for their great sacrifices and contributions to our country.

We ask the public to bear with us as we give our best in our endeavor to upgrade our services, and rest assured that legitimate concerns will be properly addressed.

Again, our apologies.

—VICTOR JOSE LUCIANO,
president and CEO,
Clark International Airport Corp.,
Clark Freeport Zone

Agrarian reform works, RP's CARP unique

THIS REFERS TO THE LETTER TITLED "LAND reform does not work." (INQUIRER, 5/26/07)

It is fallacious to say that other countries have given up on agrarian reform simply because it does not work; and that we are the only country in the world still doing this social experiment. Other nations like Japan, China and Korea have successfully shifted to industry not because their agrarian reform programs failed but because they succeeded so well, thus providing sustainable market for their industrial goods.

The fact that we are still pursuing our own agrarian reform agenda under democratic conventions makes us unique in the world. We still believe that agrarian reform works and has successfully transformed the lives of our people for the better—but the work is not yet over or complete.

In a study of the German professor, Dr. Hans Meliczek of the Institute for Rural Development of the University of Goettingen, 2 million formerly landless farmers now own land and more than 1 million tenants are now enjoying secure tenure conditions.

In a 272-page study by the DAR-German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) titled "CARP: Scenarios for Future Development," agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) have higher incomes than non-ARBs, and more ARBs are able to send their children to school.

The economy-size 2- to 3-hectare farm is considered viable though it does not rule out new and other development models like the corporate farms.

Urban migration is indeed a global phenomenon; and the reason (among others) for this is the trend among the youth (who consider rural life less glamorous) to work in an urban environment—a trend that is not solely attributable to the "failure" of land reform. Even prosperous and advanced agricultural giants like Japan, Australia and the United States have noticed this trend.

That the country can adopt different development models like tourism does not mean we can do away with agrarian reform. The fact is we are an agricultural country and over 70 percent of our people are in the countryside.

In our implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, there have been successes and failures and lessons learned. Much has been done, but so much remains to be done. Development is an ongoing battle whose momentum we cannot stop now if we are to sustain the gains we have made.

In a world that is post-industrial and global, it is more urgent for us to create our development paradigms if we are to progress together as a people. Surely, agrarian reform is a reality we cannot ignore; we need it now, more than ever.

—ENRIQUE GRANADOS III,
Paro 2, Provincial Agrarian Reform Office,
Department of Agrarian Reform,
Tanghas, Tolosa, Leyte,

Bush symbol of democracy for Albanians

ALBANIA WAS REALLY THE ONLY PLACE where George W. Bush got any affection; to such an extent that the reception in Bulgaria—where several thousand people, waving little American flags, awaited him—seemed cool to him.

Bush's support for Albania's immediate entry into Nato and his decision to demand independence for the province of Kosovo made quite a few Albanians a bit crazy.

Newspapers and other media reported that some of them, when questioned individually, answered: "Bush is a symbol of democracy. The United States is a protector of peoples' freedom." Thousands of unarmed Albanian soldiers and policemen—because that was what the Yankee authorities demanded—stood guard in two columns along a stretch of more than 20 kilometers between the airport and the capital.

The thorny issue of the independence of one part of Serbia is very controversial in Europe, and a precedent that could be followed in several countries by other regions claiming sovereignty within current borders.

And so Albania went, from the extreme left, over to the extreme right. To live is to see it! Seeing is believing!

Serbia receives a hard blow—not only political but also economic. Kosovo possesses 70 percent of Serbia's energy reserves. Between 1928 and 1999, the year of the Nato war against Serbia, the province contributed 70 percent of the country's zinc and silver production. It is estimated to have 82 percent of the country's reserves of these metals. It also has the largest reserves of bauxite, nickel and cobalt. Serbia loses factories, lands and property, and is left only with the duty to pay for the foreign debt incurred for investments in Kosovo prior to 1998.

I have just received a news dispatch from Agence France Press that forces me to extend myself for a few more lines. It literally reads:

"Moscow, June 13, 2007.

"Russia accuses the West of holding secret talks for the independence of Kosovo.

"Russia reproached the Western nations on Wednesday for working secretly and 'unilaterally' to prepare Kosovo's independence, according to a communiqué released by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Relations.

"The 'secret discussions lead us to suspect that a scenario for Kosovo's sovereignty is being unilaterally prepared,' indicated the Ministry's spokesman, Mikhail Kamynin, in reference to the meeting that the Western powers held in Paris on Tuesday, in the absence of the Moscow government.

"This attitude, he continued, is 'intolerable'; moreover, 'Russia was not invited to the meeting, and this is incompatible with declarations in the sense of seeking accommodating solutions,' he added."

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C. Luzon Army moves troops to Mindanao in war on terror

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE Army's 7th Infantry Division has repositioned four of its eight units in Central Luzon and Mindanao to fight terror threats.

The 73rd Reconnaissance Company left for Jolo, Sulu, last week to replace the work of the 71st Reconnaissance Company that returned to its base in Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija on Wednesday after an eight-month combat tour.

The newly deployed company will "address threats from terror groups including Muslim separatist groups and the New People's Army," the 7th ID spokesperson, Capt. Ferdinand Los Bañes, said in a phone interview.

The 69th Infantry Battalion, which operates in Pampanga and Tarlac, has been reassigned to Aurora and north Nueva Ecija since last week.

It has assumed the work of the 48th IB, which will undergo a 45-day retraining in Fort Magsaysay starting August.

The 69th IB has retained a squad in Mexico, Pampanga. The northwestern Pampanga areas, which are access points to Bataan and Zambales, will be jointly held by a company of the 70th IB comprised of Citizens Armed Forces Geographic Unit and the police's provincial mobile group.

Los Bañes said the Army was not stopping its work in Aurora because the insurgency problem there remained "very critical."

The NPA, he said, has not let up in its tactical offensives, launching ambushes almost every month against government forces.

The latest was on June 30 at Sitio Hacienda in Barangay Nonong in San Luis town in Aurora. Pfc. Roel Ramos was wounded in the attack, raising the number of wounded soldiers in Aurora to 10 since May.

Los Bañes said the movements of troops were "normal," adding these were done along the military's defense task.

The other units have remained in their area of assignments. The 56th IB has stayed in eastern Bulacan; the 3rd IB in western Bulacan; the 24th IB in Bataan and Zambales; the 70th IB in northern Tarlac and 71st IB in northern Nueva Ecija.

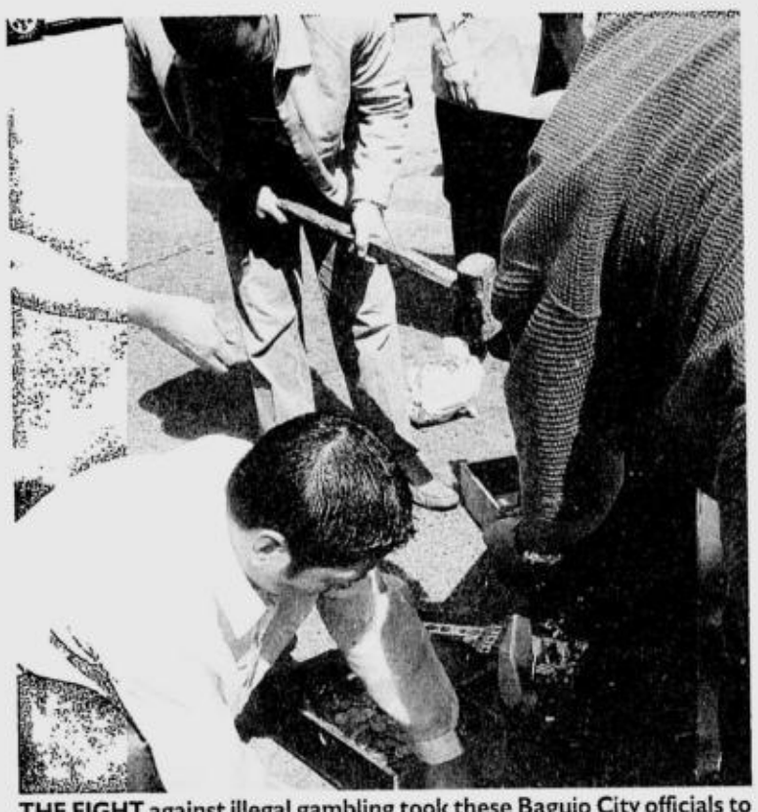
These were the first series of troops' movements in the region since Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, chief of the 7th IB based in Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, retired in September 2006. He was replaced by Maj. Gen. Juanito Gomez.

However, the urban-rural deployment of soldiers has been retained.

On Thursday, Los Bañes said top Army and police commanders in Central Luzon met in Fort Magsaysay to review the region's internal security operations and to discuss the guidelines in implementing the Human Security Act or the antiterrorism law.

"They're expected to come with a memorandum of agreement on how to go about those specifically on surveillance and arrests," he said. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

DOJ says Zambo Internet casino illegal



THE FIGHT against illegal gambling took these Baguio City officials to the streets to demonstrate their seriousness in the campaign, taking apart gambling machines. VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

DAVAO CITY—JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONzalez has reversed an earlier opinion supporting the legality of the operations of online casino within the Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone (Zamboecozone).

The existence of the casino and the authority of the Zamboecozone to operate gaming facilities, or issue licenses to gaming companies, were being questioned by the Philippine Amusement ang Gaming Corp. (Pagcor).

Pagcor has contended that it has the sole authority to issue such licenses, being the government's gaming regulatory body.

In a letter dated June 27 addressed to Pagcor chair Ephraim Genuino, Gonzalez said he premised his earlier opinion on a letter of Zamboecozone chair Georgina Yu, which said that the ecozone has the power to issue licenses to operate online or Internet gaming as provided for by Republic Act 7903, the law governing the operation of the Zamboecozone.

The law says the Zamboecozone could "operate on its own, directly or indirectly, or through a subsidiary entity or license to offer tourism-related activities, including games, amusements and recreational and sport facilities."

But Pagcor has questioned Yu's use of the law, adding that unlike the case of the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (Ceza), which has been clearly authorized to operate gambling facilities such as casinos, Zamboecozone's charter did not specify that it could operate similar facilities.

Gonzalez also pointed out that the issue on Zamboecozone has already been settled when Malacañang ruled that the special economic zone lacks the authority to operate or issue licenses to gambling companies.

Gonzalez said in the same ruling, Manuel Gaite, deputy executive secretary for legal affairs, also affirmed that Pagcor is the sole regulator of "all persons primarily engaged in gambling within the territorial jurisdiction of the Republic of the Philippines."

Gaite, he said, also ordered Zamboecozone to immediately stop any gambling activities in its area of jurisdiction.

The INQUIRER learned that Zamboecozone defied the order.

On April 24, Pagcor said it filed a petition at the Supreme Court in a bid to stop Zamboecozone from pursuing the venture.

In his letter, Gonzalez said that after reviewing the facts of the case, he had decided to recall his first opinion about Zamboecozone's authority to operate gambling, or issue licenses to gambling companies.

"For one, the Office of the President has already issued an opinion regarding the matter. Like all other acts of the President, the order here is hereby binding upon all offices and bureaus of the executive branch, including the Department of Justice," he said.

Gonzalez also admitted that the decision to recall his earlier opinion was because the issue is now with the Supreme Court.

Yu declined to comment on Gonzalez's ruling and the issue being pursued by Pagcor.

She instead berated the INQUIRER for what she said was negative publicity on Zamboecozone.

Yu even asked the INQUIRER "to read and understand their law and the DOJ's opinion rather than giving bad publicity."

"You should look at our law and read the opinion ... or better look for a lawyer to interpret it," Yu said by phone.

Yu also said the operation of the online gaming facility was a valuable investment.

"With so much bad publicity, who would ever want to come here and invest, in the process what you are doing is destroying the image (of the Zamboecozone)," she angrily said adding that "I want you to be very clear, you should understand the law because what you are doing, you (INQUIRER) are putting us in a bad light." *Inquirer Mindanao*

ROUNDUP

SC suspends Capiz judge

ROXAS CITY—The Supreme Court suspended a Capiz judge for failing to render a decision on a case within the prescribed period.

Judge Henry B. Avelino, presiding judge of the 2nd Municipal Circuit Trial Court in Pontevedra-Panay, was suspended for three months.

The SC Third Division, in a ruling dated June 15, 2007 penned by Association Justice Cancio C. Garcia and received by the MTC here on July 2, also warned that a repeat of the offense would be dealt with more severely.

Felipe Celino, Inquirer Visayas

Shootfest in Davao

DAVAO CITY—The Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association (PMAAA) Eagle Chapter here will conduct a shooting competition at the Southern Mindanao police office's shooting range in Camp Catitipan on July 7 and 8.

The 2nd Mindanao Cavaliers Cup is an annual project of PMA alumni assigned in Mindanao to raise funds for the orphans and widows of fellow members.

The activity is open all shooting enthusiasts, including civilians.

For more details contact police Supt. Filmore Escobal at 0920-9534489.

Joselle Badilla, Inquirer Mindanao

Church wall collapses on girl

DAVAO CITY—A 6-year-old girl was killed when a section of the concrete wall of a small church built on hilly portion of Barangay Ma-a here collapsed during a heavy downpour on Wednesday night.

Chenelyn Menor was attending Bible service at the Grace Christian Community Church with her parents when the incident occurred around 7:45 p.m., survivors and neighbors said.

Alfredo Bangcuang, a resident of the area, said he was among those who tried but failed to save the girl.

The girl's body was retrieved under the debris and mud some 15 minutes later, he said.

Dennis Santos, Inquirer Mindanao

Soldiers kill NPA rebel

COTABATO CITY—Government security forces killed a suspected communist guerilla during a clash in a remote village of Magpet, North Cotabato on Wednesday, the military said yesterday.

Lt. Col. Victor Tan, commander of the 39th Infantry Battalion, said soldiers were patrolling Bagumbayan village around 8:00 a.m. when they encountered about 20 New People's Army (NPA) rebels.

He said none of the soldiers were harmed during the incident.

Tan identified the slain rebel as Ruel Abawon.

He said the soldiers also recovered a sketch of a military detachment and an improvised explosive device from the slain rebel.

Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao

Tobacco billboards down

THE PHILIPPINE Tobacco Institute (PTI) said all cigarette manufacturers in the country have pulled down all tobacco advertising billboards since July 1, 2007 in compliance with the Tobacco Regulations Act of 2003.

PTI President Rodolfo Salanga, in a press statement, said all their member-manufacturers have committed to comply with the TRA and were ready to remove all billboards nationwide several days before the July 1, 2007 ban on outdoor advertising kicked in.

"I am pleased to report that all our members have complied with the ban on billboards beginning July 1 as mandated by the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003," Salanga said reiterating that they welcome fair and reasonable regulation of the cigarette industry.

Earlier, the Outdoor Advertising Association of the Philippines (OAAP) confirmed that there are no more cigarette billboards anywhere in the country today.

Gov vows probe of killings

PALAYAN CITY—Nueva Ecija Gov. Aurelio Umali has vowed to help families of victims of recent political killings by creating a commission to study the spate of violence in the province.

"We will wipe away your tears," Umali told relatives of the victims, assuring them that the provincial government would do its best to solve the recent cases of murder involving local officials.

Anselmo Roque, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CIRCULAR NO. 573
Series of 2007

Subject : AMENDMENTS TO VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE *MANUAL OF REGULATION FOR NON-BANK FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS* WITH RESPECT TO DIVIDEND DISTRIBUTION OF NON-STOCK SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS (NSSLAS)

Pursuant to Monetary Board Resolution No. 633 dated 01 June 2007, the following provisions of the S Regulations of the *Manual of Regulations for Non-Bank Financial Institutions*, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 1. Last paragraph of Sec. 4106S Capital of Non-Stock Savings and Loan Association

"Members of NSSLAs may participate in the profits of the NSSLA on the basis of their RESPECTIVE capital contributions on the date DISTRIBUTION OF NET INCOME IS APPROVED BY ITS BOARD OF TRUSTEES/DIRECTORS."

Section 2. Last paragraph of Sec. 4116S Capital-to-Risk Assets

"Whenever the capital accounts of an NSSLA are deficient with respect to the preceding paragraph, the Monetary Board, after considering the report of the appropriate supervisory and examining department of the BSP on the state of solvency of the NSSLA concerned, shall limit or prohibit the distribution of NET INCOME and shall require that part or all of NET INCOME be used to increase the capital accounts of the NSSLA until the minimum requirement has been met. The Monetary Board may, after considering the aforesaid report of the appropriate supervisory and examining department of the BSP, and if the amount of the deficiency justifies it, restrict or prohibit the making of new investments of any sort by the NSSLA with the exception of the purchases of evidence of indebtedness included under Item "b" of this Section until the minimum required capital ratio has been restored."

Section 3. Sections 4117S.a and 4117c. Withdrawable Share Reserve.

a. "The withdrawable share reserve shall be set up from THE UNDIVIDED PROFITS of the NSSLA and shall be funded in the form of cash deposited as a separate account and/or an investment allowed under this Section;

xxx

c. The reserve shall be adjusted first before the NSSLA shall declare and DISTRIBUTE TO ITS MEMBERS ANY PORTION OF ITS NET INCOME at any time of the year."

Section 4. First paragraph of Sec. 4118S Surplus Reserve for Ledger Discrepancies.

"Whenever an NSSLA has a discrepancy between its general ledger accounts and their respective subsidiary ledgers, the board of trustees of the NSSLA shall set up from the UNDIVIDED profits of the NSSLA, if any, a surplus reserve, in an amount equivalent to the amount of the discrepancy, and this reserve shall not be available for DISTRIBUTION TO MEMBERS or for any other purpose unless and until the discrepancy is accounted for.

Section 5. First paragraph of Sec. 4119S Reserve for Office Premises, Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment.

"NSSLAs shall set aside five percent (5%) of their yearly NET INCOME until it amounts to at least five percent (5%) of the total assets as a reserve for a building fund to cover the cost of construction or acquisition of office premises, and of the purchase of office furniture, fixtures and equipment.

Section 6. Change in Header of Part F, F. NET INCOME DISTRIBUTION
Section 7. Sec. 4126 S Limitations on DISTRIBUTION OF NET INCOME

"a. Basis for participation in profits. Member-depositors of an NSSLA may participate in the profits of the NSSLA on the basis of their capital contributions on the date DISTRIBUTION OF NET INCOME TO MEMBERS IS APPROVED BY ITS BOARD OF TRUSTEES/DIRECTORS.

b. Level of withdrawable share reserve. No NSSLA SHALL DISTRIBUTE ANY OF ITS NET INCOME to its members if the withdrawable share reserve required under Sec. 4117s is less than, or if by such distribution would be reduced below, the amount specified in said Section. The reserve shall be adjusted first before the NSSLA shall DISTRIBUTE ITS NET INCOME at any time of the year.

c. Capital-to-risk assets ratio. NSSLAs SHALL NOT DISTRIBUTE ANY OF ITS NET INCOME to their members if their capital-to-risk assets ratio is below the level required under Sec. 4116s.

d. Discrepancies between general ledger and subsidiary ledger accounts. The surplus reserves set up as required under Sec. 4118s shall not be reverted to free surplus for distribution to members unless and until the discrepancy between the general ledger accounts and their respective subsidiary ledgers for which the surplus reserve has been set up ceases to exist.

e. Other unhooked capital adjustments required by BSP, whether or not allowed to be set up on a staggered basis. The unbooked valuation reserves and other unbooked capital adjustments required by the BSP, whether or not allowed to be set up on a staggered basis, shall be deducted from the AMOUNT OF NET INCOME AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION TO MEMBERS.

f. Interest and other income earned but not yet collected/received, net of reserve for uncollected interest on loans. Accrued interest and other income not yet received but already recorded by an NSSLA, net of ALLOWANCE FOR uncollected interest on loans, shall be deducted from the AMOUNT OF NET INCOME AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION TO MEMBERS."

Section 8. Section 4126S.1 Reporting and Verification

"Declaration of INCOME FOR DISTRIBUTION TO MEMBERS shall be reported by an NSSLA concerned to the appropriate Supervising and Examining Department of the BSP in the prescribed form (revised BSP Form No. 7-26-25H).

Pending verification of above mentioned report by the appropriate Supervising and Examining Department of the BSP, the NSSLA concerned shall not make any announcement or communication on the INTENDED DISTRIBUTION OF NET INCOME NOR SHALL ANY ACTUAL DISTRIBUTION be made thereon.

In any case, the declaration may be announced and the INCOME DISTRIBUTED, if after twenty (20) business days from the date of the report required herein shall have been received by the BSP, no advice against such DISTRIBUTION has been received by the NSSLA concerned."

Section 9. 4126S.2 Recording of NET INCOME FOR DISTRIBUTION

The liability for MEMBERS' SHARE IN THE NET INCOME DISTRIBUTION shall be taken up in the books upon receipt of BSP approval thereof, or if no such approval is received, after twenty (20) banking/business days from the date the required Report ON DISTRIBUTABLE NET INCOME was received by the appropriate Supervising and Examining Department of the BSP whichever comes earlier. A memorandum entry may be made to trustees and for full disclosure purposes, the AMOUNT OF INCOME FOR DISTRIBUTION may be disclosed in the financial statements by means of a footnote which should include a statement to the effect that the DISTRIBUTION is subject to review by the BSP."

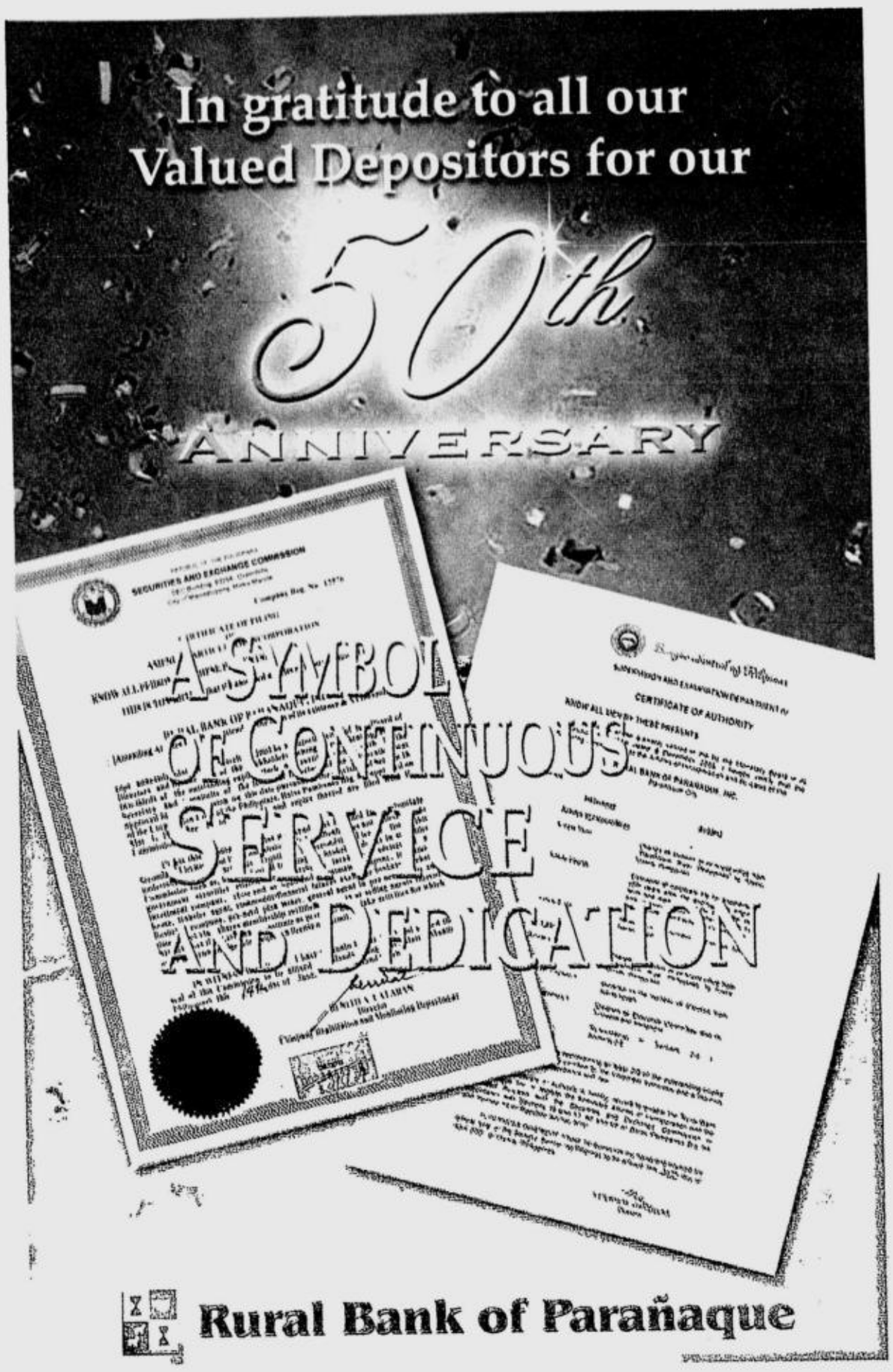
Section 10. This Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

For the Monetary Board:

(*Sgd.*) DIWA C. GUINIGUNDO
Officer-in-Charge

22 June 2007

Team formed to probe use of dummies by Koreans



BAGUIO CITY—Trade and immigration officials will form a task force to investigate local establishments run by Koreans to look into possible violations, including the supposed use of dummies.

Carmelita Usman, acting regional director of the Department of Trade and Industry, said Korean-owned businesses have thrived in the city so they want to ensure that violations are not committed in their operations.

BAGUIO has become the second major destination for Korean tourists and transients seeking an English language crash course. But their presence has spawned ethnocentric fears because of rumors they are buying up pieces of local property. VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Usman said the task force would be composed of representatives of the DTI, Bureau of Immigration, Securities and Exchange Commission, Bureau of Internal Revenue and the city government.

She said the government allows foreigners to invest in large projects but their stake in these businesses is limited to only 40 percent ownership.

But Antonio Prieto, Baguio immigration officer, said most Korean-owned establishments in the city are classified under retail trade.

Dummy partners

He said the law prohibits individual foreigners from engaging in businesses involving small capital but foreigners were able to skirt the requirement by registering their establishments under their Filipino partners.

Prieto said among Korean establishments registered under retail trade are restaurants, videoke bars and nightclubs.

Asked if language schools run by Korean investors would also be investigated, Prieto said the owners of these schools had complied with all requirements.

The schools, he said, are under corporate ownership (60 percent by Filipino investors, and 40 percent by Koreans).

Prieto said about 4,000 Koreans are based in the city.

He said the task force wanted to find ways to control the use of dummies in establishing foreign-owned businesses here.

"We have to stop this before everything gets out of control... We [also] want Filipinos to have more business opportunities and to have their equal share of resources," Prieto said.

Paid monthly

He said dummies do not benefit from the establishments' earnings and their partners pay them only a monthly salary.

He said their initial investigation showed that these dummies are not actually businessmen but may be drivers or maids.

He said foreigners usually use people who do not have any business background.

When the business encounters trouble, the dummies become the "shock absorbers" who would account for any violation committed by an establishment, he said.

The biggest challenge for the task force, he said, is to encourage these people to act as witnesses against the actual owners because they also benefit from the arrangement. *Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

'Professional jealousy,' say cops of radio man's slaying

ZAMBOANGA CITY—POLICE IN TAWI-TAWI said they were now zeroing in on professional jealousy in trying to solve the June 25 ambush slaying of government broadcaster Vicente Sumalpong in Bongao town.

Senior Supt. Emlani Anni, Tawi-Tawi police director, told the INQUIRER their investigation is now focused on Radyo ng Bayan, the victim's outfit.

"Testimonies and leads are becoming stronger, leading us to the motive as work-related," he said.

Sumalpong was on his way to work and was driving a motorcycle with colleague Maria Vema Antham and his nephew Reulan Hope Borja as passengers when ambushed.

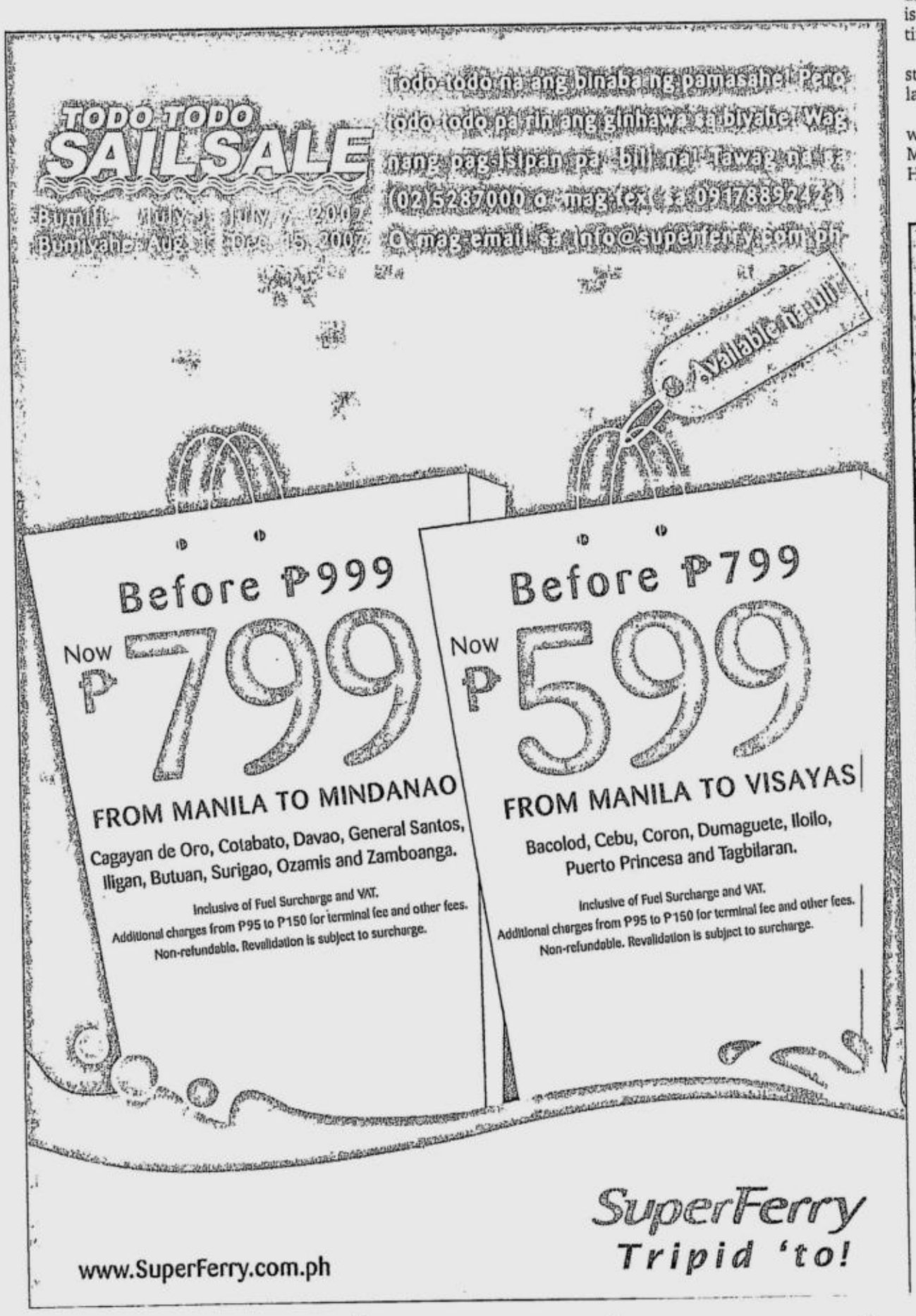
He died before receiving treatment while Antham and Borja were injured in the attack.

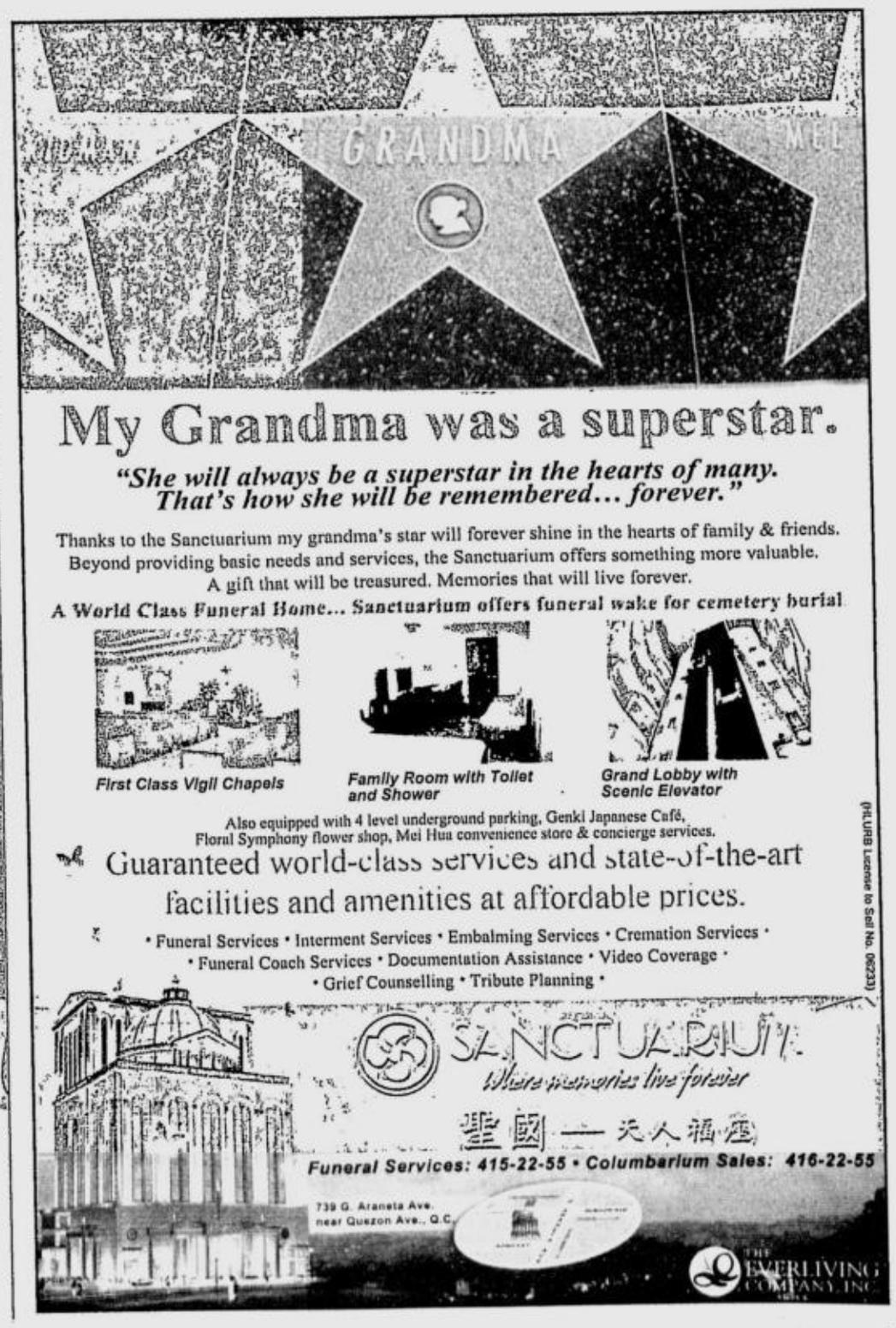
Antham is now in hiding, claiming the mastermind of the ambush on Sumalpong could be after her because she recognized the gunmen.

Anni said they are also pursuing the two gunmen and that they believed that the ambush on Sumalpong was hatched by one or more masterminds.

He earlier identified a Nur Suwang as one of the two gunmen but Antham said the police were pursuing the wrong suspect.

"All we need right now is the testimonies of the two survivors, they are not here in Tawi-Tawi and we hope they can come over to strengthen the case against the suspects," Anni said. *Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*





HEROIC ACT
An employee of the Iloilo City engineering office puts new paint on the statue of Philippine hero Apolinario Mabini as part of the city's beautification program.
ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Cops use help of communities vs cable theft

LEGAZPI CITY—POLICE WERE coordinating with village officials, junk shop owners and truckers in a bid to stop the theft of electric wires from towers and lines of the National Transmission Corp (Transco).

Transco said the theft was causing outages in Albay province.

Senior Supt. Herold G. Ubalde, Albay provincial director, said the spate of thefts of electric and telephone transmission lines began in the wake of typhoons late last year.

A Transco press release dated July 4 reported that 9.6 kilometers of wires had already been stolen in Tiwi while a total of 7.3 km had been lost to thieves in Ligao City and Malinao town.

"The situation poses threats of power interruptions and a loss of government revenue," Ubalde said.

The latest reported pilferage occurred last June 28, which caused the Bicol region's alternate source of power, the Tiwi Geothermal Power Plant (TGPP), to be cut off from the Luzon Grid.

The stolen parts from that incident alone were estimated to have cost Transco P68 million.

"We suspect that the perpetrators are individuals or organized syndicates who have the technical knowledge to dismantle these facilities," Ubalde said.

Pilfered materials are believed to be sold at junk shops.

Tiwi chief of police Felito Bigtas reported that on March 13 police arrested six suspected thieves who were driving a closed van containing 1,100 kg of aluminum wire believed to be stolen Transco cables.

Ubalde added, however, that police apprehension and monitoring would not be enough to stop the theft, especially since they usually happen in remote areas.

He added that there were not enough policemen to monitor all electric posts in Albay.

"Community members must be mobilized and be made to realize the seriousness of these thefts. A sense of personal responsibility must be inculcated," he said.

He said community involvement helped reduce the pilferage of telephone lines before and could prove effective.

He said junk shops were given pictures of which kinds of cables or wires are used in transmission towers or lines to prevent the sale of these.

Bigtas said a junk shop in Tiwi had recently turned over 205 kg of aluminum wire left by a yet unidentified seller.

Ubalde said the need for a local ordinance to stop the theft was raised when the PNP held a conference last June 27 with Transco, barangay captains, junk shop owners and truckers.

Vendors of junk materials need to get certifications from junk shops to sell their find.

Truckers were also advised to get similar certificates.

"It would be better if they do not use closed vans," Ubalde said.

He advised Transco to conduct a thorough background check on their employees, laymen trainees, subcontractors and dismissed personnel.

"Transco must also be obligated to advise local authorities when a repair will take place," Ubalde said.

"We will continue our investigations and monitoring, but we also rely on public information and cooperation," he said.

Jaymee T. Gamil, Inquirer Southern Luzon

'Jueteng' seen in relief of Vizcaya cop chief

CAMP SATURNINO DUMLAO, Nueva Vizcaya—The acting police director of Nueva Vizcaya on Wednesday vacated his post, four months after he was ordered to leave his assignment here.

In a radio message sent to the provincial office here, Chief Supt. Ameto Gil Tolentino, Cagayan Valley police director, ordered the relief of Senior Supt. Cezar Javier and assigned him to the police's Regional Health Services Group based in Tuguegarao City.

Tolentino did not say why Javier was relieved.

It was the second relief order for Javier, who has been acting police director here since September last year.

In March this year, he confirmed he was being replaced as he had been overstaying as an officer in charge.

His departure, however, did not push through, and he stayed on for four more months until his relief on July 3.

Police officials here were tightlipped on the reasons, but sources in the police said Javier was relieved for allegedly failing to live up to his supposed commitment to Catholic Bishop Ramon Villena to prevent the revival of the illegal numbers game in the province.

The on-and-off operations of "jueteng" here intensified, with at least three draws daily, as soon as the winners in the May 14 local elections were known, according to jueteng bet collectors interviewed by the INQUIRER.

Bet collections have also been reported in Ifugao, Quirino and Isabela.

"[Outgoing local officials] rushed to collect some easy cash before they left office, while newly elected ones just let it go because they do not want any disruption in the operations once they took over," said a head bet collector, referring to the bribe that local officials allegedly receive for tolerating illegal gambling in their areas.

"For some reelected officials, it was merely a case of 'business as usual,'" he said.

The INQUIRER on Thursday tried but failed to reach Javier for comment. He would not respond to queries made through his mobile phone. *Melvin Gascon, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

DOJ reverses itself, gives go signal for poachers' prosecution

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—THE justice department has ordered local prosecutors to proceed with the filing of illegal fishing cases against 24 Chinese fishermen caught in Balabac, Palawan late last year, reversing an earlier decision supporting a claim made by the Chinese that they were outside Philippine territory when arrested by the Coast Guard.

Provincial Prosecutor Allen Ross Rodriguez told the INQUIRER Thursday they received a copy of a resolution signed by Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez on the case of Kwok Wai Ming, the fishing vessel of the suspects, Tuesday afternoon.

Gonzalez ordered the filing of criminal cases against the Chinese nationals for poaching and the use of explosives for fishing.

"This is an encouraging development because we were worried about losing this important case since the department secretary had earlier instructed us to withdraw the cases against the 24 Chinese," Rodriguez said.

The Chinese will be now be arraigned for violation of the Fisheries Code.

The DOJ resolution was dated June 22 but was conveyed to the Palawan Prosecutor's Office by fax only last Wednesday, said Rodriguez.

In an earlier decision issued May 24, Gonzalez denied "with finality" an appeal filed by the Bureau of Fisheries (BFAR) on the dismissal of the complaint the BFAR filed against the Chinese.

BFAR provincial head Paciano B. Guianan said his office was already set to file a petition for certiorari at the Court of Appeals when the new DOJ ruling came out.

The 24 Chinese were caught aboard an unregistered vessel near Mangsee Island, the farthest island of Balabac, Southern Palawan Oct. 21 last year.

BFAR tests showed that the fish caught in their possession were caught with the use of explosives.

Rodriguez earlier made a public appeal to put pressure on the justice department following its May 24 order to the provincial prosecutors not to proceed with the filing of the case against the Chinese.

Taking a cue from Rodriguez's appeal, officials of the provincial board issued public statements denouncing the DOJ ruling, accusing the national government of bias for the Chinese poachers.

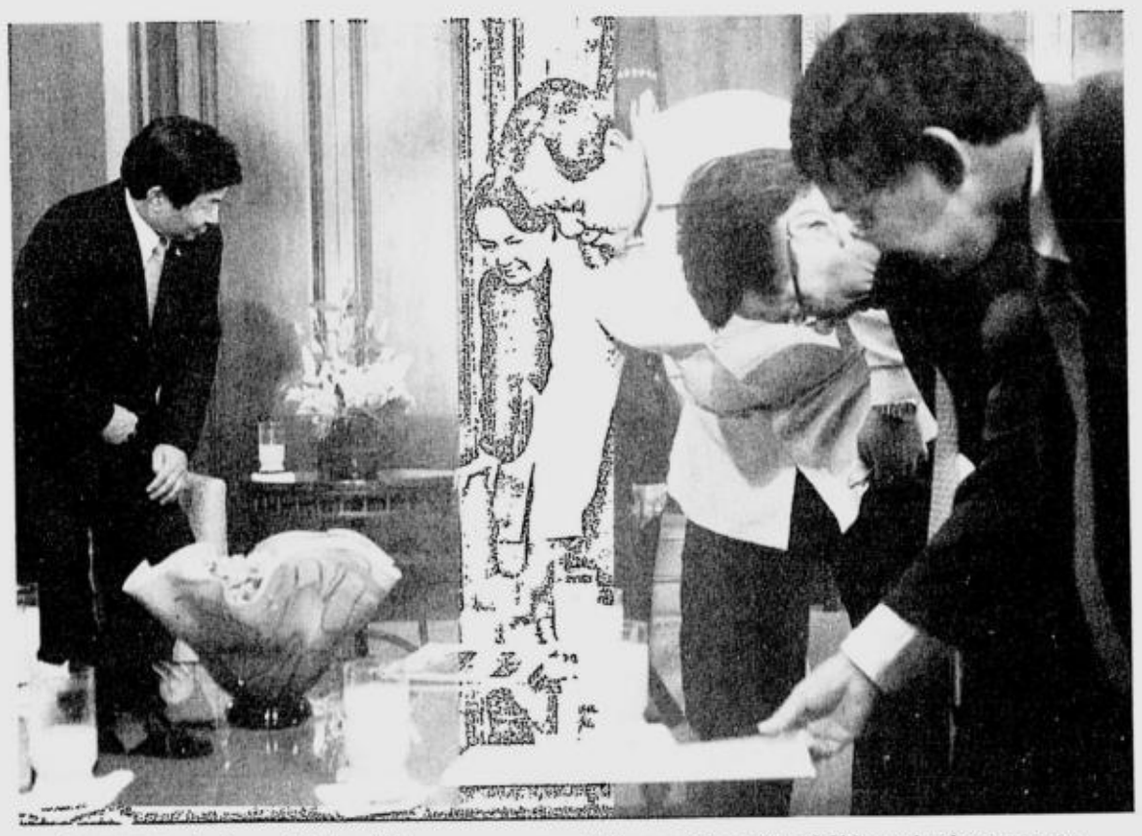
The 24 Chinese had each posted a P30,000 bail bond.

The Bureau of Immigration has issued a hold-departure order against them.

State Prosecutor Romeo Galvez said the Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking device in the Chinese's fishing vessel showed they were in Philippine territory when arrested.

Guianan said the DOJ's change of mind "gave a morale boost" to members of enforcement agencies patrolling Palawan waters.

Redempto Anda, Inquirer Southern Luzon



DIPLOMATIC relations with the Chinese government brings a delegation of Chinese businessmen to Malacañang. It's the same relations that's complicating the campaign against poaching in Philippine seas.
EDWIN BACASMAS

300 Cavite city folk taken ill by dysentery

By Marlon Ramos
Inquirer Southern Luzon

TRECE MARTIRES CITY—MORE people were being brought to hospitals and clinics as a result of a dysentery outbreak in this city that has already taken ill at least 300 residents.

A report from radio station dzBB said more and more people were complaining of stomach aches and were being taken for medical tests following the dysentery outbreak.

Dr. Vilma Diez, provincial health officer, said as of 10 a.m. Thursday, 322 residents of Barangay Cabezas were brought to different hospitals after they complained of abdominal cramps, dehydration and loose bowel movement.

Diez said they expected the number of persons afflicted with dysentery to increase in the next three days.

"The incubation of dysentery bacteria is from one day to one week. Since the first case was reported last Saturday, we expect to have more patients this coming weekend," she told the INQUIRER.

Diez explained that dysentery is worse than diarrhea.

She said people with dysentery suffer from a condition called tinesmus where patients excrete bowels laced with blood.

"It only shows that their colon or intestine was damaged because of the frequent bowel excretion," she said.

Vice Mayor Alvin Mojica and the city council on Wednesday approved a resolution declaring a dysentery outbreak in the area.

Mojica immediately ordered the distribution of bottled water to residents.

The city council also started to give out oral rehydration formula and antibiotics to the patients.

Diez said Cavite Gov. Erineo "Ayong" Maliksi had ordered her office to ensure that all patients were taken care of and provided with all the medications they needed.

Panlilio lawyers say fraud raps a 'sham'

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—CALLing as a "sham protest" the election case filed by losing gubernatorial candidate Lilia Pineda, lawyers of Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio have asked the Commission on Elections to "dismiss it outright."

"This is a sham protest, it is ridiculous," one of the five lawyers, Ernesto Francisco, said in a statement on Thursday.

Francisco said it was also "virtually impossible" for Panlilio to have cheated "because of the presence of watchers stationed at the back of the board of election inspectors."

The 34 volunteer lawyers of Panlilio had not also allowed any cheating by their candidate or supporters during the election and canvassing, he said.

Pineda's case, Francisco said, should be thrown out to "spare the governor (Panlilio) from wasting time, effort and expenses in dealing with this matter."

In the first place, he said, the lawyers of Pineda have not raised their claims of cheating before the board of election inspectors.

In their 97-page reply to Pineda's electoral protest, Francisco and lawyers Romulo Macalintal, Sixto Brillantes, Leila de Lima and Pete Quadra also filed a counter-protest on the ground of "irregularities, fraud and rampant violation of election laws, rules and regulations committed by protestant Pineda's camp."

In the counter-protest, the five lawyers said it was Pineda, 56, who had engaged in "massive vote-buying and poll fraud."

Pineda had denied the allegations a week after the May 14 elections.

Panlilio's lawyers also contested the legality of the change in the registered nickname of Pineda on Election Day.

The nickname "Baby" was changed to "Nanay Baby."

"Votes with 'Nanay' or 'Baby' have been erroneously counted or tallied, and that Panlilio would have won by tens of thousands of votes had they been declared null," the lawyers said in a statement.

In a related development, Judge Angelica Paras-Quiambao dismissed on July 2 the electoral protest filed by Pineda's allies against Mabalacat Mayor Marino Morales and Vice Mayor Prospero Lagman.

PAMPANGA Gov. Fr. Eddie Panlilio and mayors speak together for the first time prior to Panlilio's assumption into office to condemn the killings of barangay captains in the province.
TONETTE OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

Guingona: Free Estrada, he's now a new man

From page A1

driguez, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim and Genuine Opposition (GO) spokesperson Adel Tamano—when he made his brief speech.

"And so I say, let us give justice to Erap now that he is down. I hope the court will acquit him. Let freedom be for Erap," Guingona said, referring to Estrada by his nickname.

'I accuse'

In 2000 when he was a senator, Guingona delivered his famous "I accuse" speech linking then President Estrada to the illegal numbers game "jueteng," as exposed by Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

The speech precipitated Estrada's impeachment by Congress, which was later overtaken by "Edsa Dos," which brought then Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo to the presidency.

Guingona was later nominated by Ms Arroyo to be her vice president and foreign secretary, which Congress seconded.

In time, Guingona quit as foreign secretary because of a disagreement with Malacañang over the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement.

After completing his term as Vice President in 2004, Guingona joined critics of the Arroyo administration, which was then being plagued by the "Hello Garci" election fraud scandal and protests over such controversial policies as the "calibrated preemptive response" used by the police to disperse political rallies.

He was also among the convenors of Kontra Daya, an antifraud watchdog group that monitored the conduct of the May 14 midterm elections.

2 gentlemen

Estrada himself said in a statement read by his senator-son Jinggoy that there were "very strong indications that despite its avowed stance of respecting the independence of the judiciary, Malacañang Palace is already meddling in my plunder trial and making every effort to ensure my conviction."

He said he had been personally informed by two "prominent and respected gentlemen with unquestionable probity" that in their conversations with Ms Arroyo, she supposedly said that she would have him convicted on account of his "many sins" against her administration.

"My conversation with one of these gentlemen was made before many people who can independently confirm the gist of what was discussed, while the second person confirmed Ms Arroyo's intent to have me convicted," he added.

Estrada said he was both "alarmed and saddened" by what the two men told him, and the publication two weeks later of newspaper advertisements questioning the need for public turmoil if he should be convicted. *(See sidebar.)*

In a statement he issued yesterday, Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal said: "In the spirit of truth, I want to make it clear that PGMA (President Arroyo) at no instance ever expressed to me, directly or indirectly, that former President Joseph Estrada will be convicted by the Sandiganbayan."

'Every legal procedure'

"Through the six years of my plunder trial, I have observed every legal procedure in existence to prove my innocence. But learning of such a move on the part of the Palace and Ms Arroyo greatly compromises the integrity of the Sandiganbayan, and not through its own fault, but because of the unquenchable thirst for vengeance and retribution of the current regime," Estrada said.

He said he would only hope that despite "intense pressures from the executive branch," the Sandiganbayan justices trying his case would "continue to uphold their sacred oaths to render justice without fear or favor, and based only on the facts and evidence at hand without consideration for the personal sentiments of those in power."

Asked about the identity of the two men who supposedly informed his father of Ms Arroyo's purported desire to have him convicted, Senator Estrada said one was an official "highly trusted and respected" by both the administration and opposition camps.

"He just wanted to warn my father. He was sympathetic to my father and wanted to tell him what is in the mind of Mrs. Arroyo," the senator said, adding that he believed that the man approached his father on his own.

The senator, who is a coaccused of his father, also ruled out any compromise with the Arroyo administration, including the possibility of a pardon for his father in the event of conviction: "We will never strike a deal with this administration."

Acquittal by the people

Mayor Lim said he thought the people themselves had already acquitted Estrada because of the victory of most of the opposition senatorial candidates endorsed by the latter.

Lim also said the case against Estrada was evidently weak because of the great number of witnesses. He said he believed there would be a public outcry if the verdict were for conviction.

He said he would tolerate pro-Estrada rallies in Manila as long as the demonstrators secured permits from City Hall and kept the peace.

"The right to demonstrate is guaranteed by the Constitution; it can be held anywhere. But the permit to rally will be given on the condition that there would be no violence. At the start of violence, the permit will be automatically cancelled," Lim said.

GO's Tamano claimed that the government could use the yet to be implemented antiterror law to clamp down on possible unrest if Estrada were convicted.

"The underlying idea in the newspaper ads that if the people speak out, demonstrate or rally in case of conviction, that would be regarded as destabilization and could be subject to the terror law," Tamano said.

"The message is insidious, that the people cannot get angry, cannot make noise and hold a rally if the Sandiganbayan decides for a conviction," he said.

But Senator Estrada said family and friends were "not thinking about conviction, because up to this day, the prosecution has not presented any evidence linking my father to this plunder case."

"They only relied heavily on the testimony of [Chavit Singson]," he said, adding:

"My fervent prayer is that the Sandiganbayan will decide on the merits of the case and not the influence of the Malacañang."

Taking it in stride

The Sandiganbayan brushed aside allegations that Malacañang was twisting its arm to produce a guilty verdict for Estrada.

Executive Clerk of Court Renato Bocar, also the acting spokesperson of the Special Division, said that the court had no room for these allegations and that its decision would be based strictly on the law, jurisprudence and evidence presented.

"The justices have long been expecting that there would be talk like this, considering the nature of the case which is highly controversial. They are taking it in stride," Bocar told the INQUIRER over the phone after a meeting yesterday with Presiding Justice Teresita Leonardo de Castro.

He dismissed rumors that the court was ready to hand down a decision any time this month, noting that the court had 90 days or until mid-September to promulgate its decision, as prescribed by the Constitution.

The countdown officially began on June 15, when the prosecution and the defense made their final stand before the court, presenting in summary their respective evidence and arguments.

Bocar also said it was not feasible for the court to complete the decision in a month's time in view of the issues involved and the voluminous documents that the justices would have to go through.

"But it doesn't mean that the justices started studying the case only after the oral summation [last month]. They started reviewing the testimonies even before that," he said.

He did not discount the possibility that the court would be able to come up with a decision before the deadline.

AFP ready

The military has not monitored any threat of disturbance or destabilization in the event that the Sandiganbayan rules on the plunder case against Estrada.

But just the same, it is ready to support the police should there be any disturbance, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said yesterday.

"We have not monitored any threat but we're aware that a decision will soon come out," Esperon told reporters.

He added: "We will fully support the Philippine National Police if there should be some instability.

"But I believe that after all these years, if there is a decision, all we have to do is follow it. There's no need to debate about it anymore."

With reports from Jocelyn R. Uy and Christine O. Avendaño

GMA adviser Dante Ang linked to 'Erap' ads

From page A1

Makati City by a person claiming to represent "Friends of Democracy" and who left no contact number or address.

Sources in the advertising industry said the ad was placed by Skoal Advertising, described as a small local advertising and public relations firm that has been in existence for many years.

Sources said Dante Ang, presidential adviser on overseas Filipino workers, has links with Skoal Advertising.

The ad also appeared in other broadsheets Philippine Star, Manila Times, Manila Bulletin, Manila Standard Today and Malaya.

But the Estrada camp has accused the Palace, specifically its spin master Reli German, of orchestrating the ads meant to condition the public mind.

Counterattack

But German said: "I had nothing to do with it. Public assumption of whodunit is so predictable. Don't you think the opposition is wily enough to have released it and have fingers pointed at the administration?"

The Palace went on the counterattack yesterday, with Presidential Legal Counsel Sergio Apostol warning that a not guilty verdict could generate an equally strong outcry as the anticipated reaction of Estrada supporters to a guilty verdict.

"We must be reminded that he was removed through People Power. There was an outcry against his leadership. If he is not convicted, the people will be angry," Apostol told reporters.

Apostol based his forecast on Edsa II, which ousted Estrada from power in 2001. "The people were angry at him. They wanted change, but he has not changed up to now."

While Estrada's mass support continues to be large, Apostol said the public should not belittle the anti-Estrada forces. "There are many of them out there, but they choose to be silent," he said.

Presidential Adviser on Legal Affairs Gabriel Claudio shot down speculation that President Macapagal-Arroyo had been talking about insider information she had on a guilty verdict for Estrada.

"The President could not have spoken about any preference or forecast with regard to the outcome of the Erap case. She does not know what the verdict will be and she has no expectations other than having a verdict that is just and lawful," Claudio said.

Palace keeps its distance

He added: "The Palace had also been very consistent about keeping its distance from the litigation of this case. Both the law and political wisdom dictate that the administration do nothing to interfere with the adjudication of the case nor be seen as trying to influence its outcome.

"It is essential for the public to view the forthcoming verdict with credibility and respect. We believe the public appreciates the thoroughness, transparency and impartiality in the way the Sandiganbayan has been hearing the case.

"The credibility of the judicial process should forestall any attempt to sway people's emotions when the verdict comes out one way or the other."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye also pitched in, saying in a statement: "We believe in the rule of law and in letting justice take its course. Both sides have been given an ample opportunity to argue their case in court. At this stage, we can only await the decision of the Sandiganbayan, which we hope will uphold justice and the best public interest."

Intel sources tag Isafp in Jonas kidnap

From page A1

such a thing? I don't think there is any basis at all for this charge," Esperon said.

At a meeting with the INQUIRER in a city east of Metro Manila, the intelligence agent said Burgos was abducted because of his supposed membership in the Communist Party of the Philippines' central committee and involvement in "education" activities (recruitment and indoctrination).

The source, who asked not to be named for security reasons, said he heard members of one of the key military intelligence units talking about the abduction of Burgos as far back as October 2006.

He said the conversation occurred in an area where agents spent their break near the Isafp canteen.

'Na-kahon na ba?'

"I heard one of them saying *'O, paano na si* Burgos? *Na-kahon na ba?'"* he said, using intelligence parlance meaning that the subject's movements and location had been established and that the subject was ready to be picked up.

But apparently, the source said, it took some time before Burgos' abduction was carried out: *"Siguro malikot* (Maybe he was moving around a lot)."

On April 28, Burgos was forcibly taken by three men and a woman from the Ever Gotesco Mall in Fairview, Quezon City.

The source said that when the news broke of Burgos' abduction and disappearance, he was able to identify the abductors from the artist's sketches compiled by police.

According to the source, one of the men operates under the code name "Bajam." Another man, the supposed leader of the abducting team, goes under the names "Tango Lima," "TL (team leader)," "Master" or "Chief." The woman is known as "Donna" or "Madonna."

All are members of a team within the unit called a "spot" in intelligence parlance, the source said.

A "spot" is composed of at least 10 members. It is also used to refer to a small geographic area where a team is assigned. The Fairview area belongs to "Spot-4," the source said.

110 percent sure

Asked where Burgos was, the source said: "I'm 110 percent sure he is dead. *Matagal na ang* one week *ang paghawak sa mga ganyan* (A week is too long to be holding people like that)."

The source said he could not be sure if the Isafp chief, Maj. Gen. Delfin Bangit, was "blind," or did not know about the Burgos operation.

Asked about the reaction of the unit members when the Burgos story broke, the source said: *"Wala lang, dedma* (Nothing). They are used to that."

The source also said the vehicles used by Burgos' abductors—a grayish Toyota FX and a red Toyota Vios, both "donated" to the Isafp by a Chinese civilian agent—could still be seen in Camp Aguinaldo.

"Those vehicles are familiar to me. But obviously, the license plates have been changed," he said.

Another angle

Another source interviewed separately by the INQUIRER said there was another vital angle to the case: Burgos was abducted because he was the recipient of vital military information.

In March, a month before Burgos' abduction, the military arrested 2nd Lt. Dick Ableres of the Army's 56th Infantry Battalion, the source said.

Ableres was purportedly caught in the act of providing information on troop deployments and the military's order of battle (OB) to the Left. His contact in the Left was Burgos, the source said.

The soldier is now supposedly undergoing a court-martial.

An investigator also interviewed by the INQUIRER, who spoke on condition of anonymity for lack of authority to speak on the matter, also said an informer had approached a police unit in Metro Manila a few months ago with information on the supposed involvement of "AFP intelligence" in Burgos' disappearance.

The informant said Burgos was involved in "armed partisan work."

"The only reason the military is related to [Burgos' abduction] is his involvement in peasant activities and the confirmation that he is an official of the CPP-New People's Army. That is the only reason he is a victim," the investigator said.

Take it to court

Esperon, however, challenged the source of the information on Isafp's purported involvement to file a case in court.

"This is a very serious accusation, so those who are saying that should come out in the open," he said. "We are an institution and anyone who has evidence against [the military] should go to court. And we will produce the people who are [implicated]."

Esperon said the motives of those linking the military to Burgos' abduction should be examined.

Asked if he would allow the soldier who is supposedly under court-martial for leaking information to Burgos to testify, Esperon said: "I don't want to unnecessarily suspect any soldier of an unverified allegation. I'd rather trust my soldiers."

No copy for Edita

In an interview with reporters in Camp Aguinaldo, Esperon said Burgos' mother would not be given a copy of the military investigation report that she had been asking for.

A study by military lawyers with the Judge Advocate General's Office (Jago) has concluded that there was "no need" to release the report of the AFP Provost Marshal to Edita Burgos, Esperon said.

The report, marked "restricted," is about the loss of a license plate (TAB-194) from an impounded vehicle held at the camp of the 56th IB in Norzagaray, Bulacan.

The license plate was identified by witnesses as the one on the vehicle used by Burgos' abductors.

"There is no need [to release the report]. [The Jago] studied it and [that is] the advice to me," Esperon said.

He reiterated that the report would be of little use to Edita Burgos because it did not delve into the actual disappearance of her son.

"As of now that should remain an internal document to us ... It has served its purpose as far as we are concerned in the Armed Forces," he said.

Last week, for the first time since her son's disappearance, Edita Burgos directly accused the Army of abducting him. She said Esperon's refusal to release the investigation report showed that he was covering up for his men.

In response, Esperon said it should be a challenge to the military to find Jonas Burgos. He also said the Provost Marshal's report also included an inquiry into the 37-year-old's disappearance—a direct contradiction of what the AFP information chief had earlier said.

Too early to say

Esperon also said it was "too early to say" that communist rebels were behind Burgos' abduction, as theorized by Army investigators.

"We will come up with the whole picture as soon as we get more details," he said. *With reports from Joel Guinto of INQUIRER.net, Juliet Labog-Javellana and Christine O. Avendaño*

TIMELINE

The Jonas Burgos mystery

APRIL 28, 2007—JONAS BURGOS is last seen at the Ever Gotesco Mall on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. Witnesses tell police four men and a woman dragged Burgos away and forced him into a Toyota Revo with plate number TAB-194.

April 30—Editha Burgos, mother of Jonas, believing her son was abducted, appeals for his release in a press conference in Quezon City.

May 1—Burgos' family receives word from eyewitnesses that "military-looking" men took Jonas away. A witness told police he heard Jonas say "I am only an activist." One of the men reportedly identified himself as a police officer. Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, spokesperson of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, denies AFP involvement in the case.

May 2—Commission on Human Rights Chair Purificacion Quisumbing announces the holding of an inquiry into Jonas' disappearance upon request of the Burgos family.

May 8—License plate No. TAB 194 is traced to an impounded vehicle parked at an Army camp in Bulacan since June last year.

May 9—Malacañang says the car plate was stolen by "some troublemakers."

May 24—Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon hands over two of three soldiers from 56th Infantry Battalion, Cpl. Castro Bugalon and Private First Class Jose Villena, for questioning by police. The third one, Battalion Commander Melquiades Feliciano, who has been suspended, fails to show up.

June 5—Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) chief Maj. Gen. Delfin Bangit snubs the Commission on Human Rights' inquiry into Jonas' disappearance.

June 15—In a 45-minute closed-door session, Burgos' mother Edita tags the military as responsible for her son's disappearance. In his testimony before the CHR, Bangit says that Jonas has never been "a target of operation."

"I can categorically say that as far as the Isafp is concerned, [it] has nothing to do with the reported disappearance of Jonas," Bangit said.

June 27—At a press conference in Quezon City, Burgos mother for the final time directly accuses the Army of abducting her son, and Esperon of covering up the crime.

June 28—Bacarro says that Esperon has ordered the Judge Advocate General's Office (Jago) to look into possibility of releasing "restricted" report to Burgos' mother.

He says the Provost Marshal's report was an "internal document" of the AFP that was classified as "restricted" and did not touch on Jonas' abduction but only on the loss of the license plate.

Bacarro also says that one of the reasons cited by AFP lawyers in the letter they sent to Edita Burgos' lawyer refusing the release of the Provost Marshal's report was the fact that the implicated officers were still being investigated.

Chief Justice unfazed by Palace meet in South

From page A1

INQUIRER on the sidelines of the Asian Justices Forum on the Environment held at the Edsa Shangri-La hotel, Puno said the Palace summit scheduled next week could fill certain gaps.

"Maybe not," he said when asked whether he thought that summit would preempt the one he had proposed. "They may complement each other."

As early as last month, Puno had told INQUIRER editors and reporters that he was planning to call a summit on the unabated extrajudicial killings that were giving the Philippine government, especially the executive branch, "a black eye" abroad.

SC summit: July 16-17

He said the discussions would center on, among other things, how legal procedures could be made "more helpful" to victims and their families.

The summit has been scheduled for July 16 and 17 at the Manila Hotel.

The Malacañang summit, on the other hand, was announced only on Tuesday by Deputy National Security Adviser Pedro Cabuay, who said it would focus on how to make the antiterror law, or the Human Security Act (HSA) of 2007, more acceptable to the public.

This summit will be held in Cagayan de Oro City on July 8-10. President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to attend on the last day.

Militant groups have warned that the HSA, originally scheduled to take effect on July 15, would be used to violate civil liberties. *(Story on Page A1.)*

Invitations

The high court has invited representatives of the executive and legislative branches of government, the police and military, and civil society to attend its "National Consultative Summit on Extrajudicial Killings and Enforced Disappearances—Searching for Solutions."

It plans to invite observers such as members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of various international organizations.

The Chief Justice said the human rights group Karapatan would also be invited, contrary to an earlier statement of lawyer Ernesto Francisco Jr.

"We are inviting their representatives. They'll get a special invitation," Puno said.

PUNO: Summits complement each other.

Supreme Court spokesperson Jose Midas Marquez said Karapatan's representative, Marie Hilao-Enriquez, and Evangeline Hernandez, mother of slain human rights worker Benjaline Hernandez, had met with him to request to be allowed to participate in the summit.

Marquez said he had informed Enriquez and Hernandez that they and representatives of similar organizations would be invited.

In a July 2 letter to Marquez, Francisco expressed concern that groups like Karapatan, which were at the forefront of the protest against extrajudicial killings, had not been invited to the summit.

"Without the participation of Karapatan and other organizations identified with the Left, there is also that great possibility that the summit will suffer the same fate as the Melo Commission, which fate was primarily brought about by the fact that it was boycotted by the Left," he said.

Last year, Ms Arroyo formed the Melo Commission to look into the extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances.

But the commission, which was headed by retired Justice Jose Melo, was not able to get the side of the relatives of the victims of the killings.

False charges

Francisco is asking the high court to include in the summit agenda the subject of false charges.

His client, Fides Lim-Ladlad, made the request on behalf of her husband Victor who, she said, was falsely accused by the government when it charged him with rebellion and multiple murder along with Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo.

In an eight-page guide issued to participants, the tribunal said the summit was another response that the judiciary was undertaking in addressing the political killings.

On March 1, the tribunal issued Administrative Order No. 25-2007, which designated 99 regional trial courts nationwide to handle such cases.

At his meeting last month with INQUIRER editors and reporters, the Chief Justice mentioned the need to reexamine legal procedures "to make these more helpful to the victims, more forceful against suspected perpetrators, and more demanding of government agents to solve such cases."

He also cited the need for the judiciary to find out how it could fully use its expanded powers under the 1987 Constitution as guardian and protector of constitutional rights.

Objectives

The objectives of the summit are:

- To search for wholistic solutions and provide inputs to the Supreme Court in its objective to enhance rules, or promulgate new ones, both adjudicative and non-adjudicative, in the protection and enforcement of constitutional rights, including the protection of witnesses.
- To examine the concept of extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances pursuant to the standards provided for by local and international laws, including the United Nations instruments.
- To revisit the rules or evidence such as hearsay, circumstantial, forensic and the like, as well as rules on police investigations and evidence gathering, and to explore more remedies for the aggrieved parties aside from the writ of habeas corpus.

Delegates

Among those being considered as delegates to the summit are representatives of the Office of the President, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Justice, Department of Interior and Local Governments, National Economic and Development Authority, Department of National Defense, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, Melo Commission, Presidential Human Rights Committee, Senate, House of Representatives, Sandiganbayan, Commission on Human Rights, Integrated Bar of the Philippines, and the academe, civil society and religious sector.

Palace, AFP: Antiterror law is not about wiretapping media

From page A1

vent this.

"Safeguards include the need to have court approval if you wiretap somebody. You need court approval if you have to put people under surveillance. You can't act recklessly. You have to be very sure about it," Esperon told reporters, citing the P500,000 a day penalty for mistaken arrests.

Esperon said there was no cause for the media to fear that they could be the target of wiretapping. "The media are not the target here. You are our allies," he said.

He said the law was not about wiretapping of the media but of suspected terrorists.

"Don't tell me you are suspects. If ever that would be done, which is very remote, then it has to be with court approval," he said.

For good of all

Esperon blamed the media for focusing on the HSA's wiretapping provision. "The antiterrorism law is not about wiretapping. It is about neutralizing would-be terrorists and that should be for the good of all of us.

He noted that from 2001 to 2006, there were 356 victims of the Abu Sayyaf and 900 assassinations by the communist New People's Army.

"So we hope that the HSA would work well to stop all these assassinations and these killings by the Abu Sayyaf," the AFP chief of staff said.

A Catholic bishop has warned that indiscriminately using the HSA against those against the Arroyo administration would lead to "greater tumult" in the country.

Activists fear that the HSA or Republic Act No. 9372, "An Act to Secure the State and Protect our People from Terrorism," could be easily abused because of its broad definition of terrorism that includes creating fear among the people.

Presidential Legal Counsel Sergio Apostol said the HSA was "too strict" because one would have to convince the Court of Appeals with enough evidence to get the go signal for a wiretap operation.

"If they are not doing anything illegal or they are not terrorists, why should they be afraid?" Apostol asked.

Even without the implementing rules and regulations (IRR), the HSA is "very detailed" to check against authorities from crossing the line, Apostol said.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the HSA could be implemented by August or September after it shall have been published in a newspaper of general circulation.

The antiterror law was originally scheduled to take effect on July 15, but its implementation was put off because its IRR have yet to be formulated and public discussions on its ramifications have yet to be conducted.

For his part, Defense Undersecretary Ricardo Blancaflor said the new law was actually a "human rights law."

Misleading

"There are 59 provisions on human rights protection, (in the HSA)," Blancaflor told reporters.

Two senators cautioned Gonzalez against misleading the people and the media about the wiretapping provision of the HSA.

IN STATE OF PREPAREDNESS: Members of the Presidential Security Group, the military unit that protects President Macapagal-Arroyo and her family, prepare their gear in observance today of the PSG's 109th anniversary at Malacañang Park. LYN RILLON

Senators Francis Pangilinan and Panfilo Lacson said Gonzalez's statement was unnecessary and uncalled for.

The two senators reacted strongly to Gonzalez's statement on Wednesday that journalists could be bugged if they were suspected of involvement in terror activities.

"Secretary Gonzalez's statement that media may be bugged is not only misleading, it is unnecessary and uncalled for. Why? Because it is the Court of Appeals and not Secretary Gonzalez that decides who can and cannot be bugged and most certainly media cannot be bugged for doing their work as journalists," Pangilinan said.

Pangilinan said he was confident that the judiciary would never allow the abuse of this power.

The bugging of journalists going about their work is illegal under the HSA, according to Pangilinan.

Blunder

He said that while the 9/11 attacks against the United States showed how real terrorism was, the invasion of Iraq showed how wrong the campaign against terrorism could be fought because of blundering officials.

Lacson said there was no need for Gonzalez to jump the gun on the provision on wiretapping.

Lacson noted there was still no draft IRR of the new law.

He also noted that the justice department was just a member of the inter-agency Anti-Terrorism Council, which decides collectively, and then obtain the needed order from the Court of Appeals to wiretap a suspect.

The authorization to wiretap someone is valid for 30 days.

Lacson also allayed fears that the law might be used to oppress the ordinary people.

He said the law barred the military from directly participating in antiterrorist operations and limited its role only to technical and logistical support to agencies such as the Philippine National Police and National Bureau of Investigation.

EU to watch HSA closely

In Bacolod, Ambassador Alistair MacDonald, head of delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines, said the Philippine public and the international community would be watching closely how the implementing rules of the HSA would be established and applied.

"The antiterror law is not an excuse to go out and shoot people ... to target people for matters not provided in the law," said MacDonald, who was in Negros Occidental yesterday to meet with farmers who have benefited from the European Union-funded Small Projects Facility.

The European Commission to the Philippines and the Philippine Commission on Human Rights (CHR) have signed a memorandum of agreement to launch a new EC-funded human rights project.

The project that will be implemented by the CHR together with its sister institutions in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand is intended to pave the way for the development of an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) human rights mechanism, he said. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño in Manila, and Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas*

Italian solon here for Bossi but not to negotiate with abductors

From page A1

more can be done, and how long that would take. So it's an exploratory mission," she said.

She said she planned to go to Mindanao, where Bossi is being held, "if the circumstances allow it."

The military has mounted a massive search for Bossi, who was seized by gunmen in Payao, Zamboanga Sibugay on June 10, but this week it ceased cooperating with Moro separatist rebels, who pulled out from the area.

Italians worried

Boniver, a member of the Italian parliament and former Minister of Trade for Foreign Affairs, told the INQUIRER last night that the Italian people were worried about the safety of the 57-year-old missionary from Milan and wanted more intelligence work to confirm his whereabouts and state of health.

"We are praying, we are hoping and we are counting on the fact that no bad news has arrived regarding his eventual departure ever since he was kidnapped," she said.

Boniver said the hints that Bossi was alive included "voices, murmurs" and what she read in the newspapers.

"We have not received proof, uncompromising proof that he is alive and well. So we're very very worried. Every time that a country had one of its citizens abducted, everybody worries until the person is found and freed," she said.

This is Boniver's third visit in the Philippines. She was in the country in 2003 and 2004 when she was with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in charge of Asian affairs.

Setback

Eid Kabalu, spokesperson of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, said the rebel withdrawal from the search was a major setback in the effort to locate Bossi.

The government and the MILF, which have been engaged in peace talks, said they needed more time to renew an accord allowing them to operate jointly to interdict criminals and terrorists.

The MILF has denied any hand in the abduction, saying the gunmen holding the priest were demanding a ransom.

Areas pinpointed

Boniver said she was not in a position to offer money in exchange for Bossi's freedom, saying the Italian government, just like the Philippines and other governments, adheres to a no-ransom policy.

HUMANITARIAN MISSION: Margherita Boniver, member of the Italian parliament, vows to "work for a positive conclusion" to the abduction of her compatriot, Father Bossi. A veteran of humanitarian missions to several of the world's hotspots, Boniver is barred by the Philippine government from directly negotiating for the release of Bossi. JESS YUSON

Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., Armed Forces chief of staff, yesterday said the military had pinpointed the areas where Bossi could be held.

"We are concentrating on very few areas now where we think he is, where we believe he is, but we don't want to mention the exact locations or the people who are involved because this might affect the safety of Fr. Bossi," he told reporters.

Esperon said that the military had established "informal contacts" with Bossi's kidnappers and that those who were able to contact the kidnappers were "working under one organized team in Zamboanga Sibugay."

He said there was no demand for any kind of ransom.

In Legazpi City, US Ambassador Kristie Kenney on Wednesday said that her country was leaving it up to the Philippine government to pursue the search for Bossi.

"We haven't been asked to help... We don't jump into action unless asked," Kenney said, adding that the abduction was an internal matter for Philippine authorities to handle.

In case the Philippine government did ask for help, Kenney said: "Well, we haven't been asked so I'm not gonna speculate on what we would do because we have not been asked."

Iraq and Afghanistan

Boniver negotiated for the release of kidnapped victims on two different occasions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In 2004, she worked for the release of two young Italian charity workers, who were kidnapped in Iraq by talking to authorities in Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Yemen, as well as with women's groups and civil society there to exert pressure on the kidnappers. The two young women were eventually released.

In 2005, Boniver travelled to Afghanistan and talked with President Karzai and other influential groups to secure the release of another young Italian woman who was working for an international group in Kabul. The victim was also released.

Meeting with GMA

"I did the rounds more or less as I'm doing here. It's very important you see. When I go back to Italy and report to the Italian media about the results of this visit, I will make it clear that everything will be exerted in order to save the life of a human being," she said.

Yesterday, Boniver met with Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo and with religious authorities before having dinner with Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Today, she is scheduled to have a luncheon meeting with the secretary of national defense, meet with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang at 2 p.m. and fly to Zamboanga City later in the afternoon. She will return to Italy on Saturday. *Reports from AP and Christine O. Avendaño and Tarra Quismundo*

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NEWS

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Nothing funny about actor's bomb joke

MANALO: "I didn't know."

By Tarra Quismundo

ANOTHER ACTOR TRIED TO BE funny on an airplane and, like others before him, flopped big-time.

Flight attendants on a Philippine Airlines trip to Palawan from Manila found no humor in sexy actor Jay Manalo's joke that he had a bomb in his carry-on luggage.

Manalo was kicked off the plane and brought to a police detachment for questioning.

"I got into trouble because of my ignorance," Manalo told reporters in Filipino at the Philippine National Police Aviation Security Group (PNP-ASG) office at the Manila Domestic Airport.

Manalo was removed from PAL flight PR-195 bound for Puerto Princesa City minutes before the plane was to take off at 8 a.m. yesterday from Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2 after he joked that there was a bomb in his backpack.

Flight steward Hector Sarabita reported the comment to police, said Chief Supt. Atilano Morada, PNP-ASG chief.

"*O may bomba yan ha* (There's a bomb in there)," Manalo told reporters he had said to a flight attendant he had asked to stow his bag in the overhead bin.

"He just gave it [the bag] back to me," he said.

He had just finished his drink in his seat when he learned the flight attendant had reported his remark to the airport police. He said he went with the police to avoid further trouble.

"I really did not know that making such a joke [would get me in trouble]. If only I knew. Now, even on a bus or in a taxi, I will never again joke about a bomb," said the actor, who added that he did not see the notices against making bomb jokes posted around the Naia 2 terminal.

"To those who travel whether internationally or just here, I hope you will not make jokes about terrorists. I never imagined that was in the law," Manalo said.

Making bomb jokes is punishable under Presidential Decree 1727, which imposes a maximum prison term of five years and a fine of P40,000 on those convicted.

The incident was the 14th involving a bomb joke this year.

Several weeks ago, actor John Estrada was investigated for making a bomb joke at the General Santos City airport. He, however, was allowed to board his flight after a search of his luggage failed to turn up a bomb.

As of press time, Manalo was still in police custody as investigators awaited the decision of PAL whether or not to pursue the case, Morada said.

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Congresswoman's son-in-law found dead

Trader's body discovered with bullet wound in neck in friend's Pasig condo

By Kristine L. Alave

A SON-IN-LAW OF A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES was found dead Wednesday evening from a bullet wound in a condominium unit in Pasig City.

Investigators are eyeing suicide in the death of Jose Reyes, 43, a businessman and son-in-law of Rep. Amelita Villarosa of the lone district of Occidental Mindoro. They added, however, that they were not ruling out the possibility of foul play.

Sr. Supt. Frank Uyami, chief of the Pasig City police, said yesterday that Reyes' body was discovered at about 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday inside P-59 at the fourth floor of Valle Verde Mansion on Capt. Henry Javier St., Barangay Oranbo.

Police said the body was discovered by the unit's owner, Bernard de Venecia, also a businessman and a friend of the victim. The incident was reported to the police at about 10:10 p.m., Uyami said.

The report said the victim had a single gunshot wound on the neck just below the chin. The bullet, Uyami said, was believed to have exited on the upper portion of the head.

A black Zig-Zauer .9 mm pistol with serial number B260185 and with one loaded magazine was recovered in the crime scene. A slug was recovered inside a pillow on top of Reyes' head, Uyami said.

Initial investigation showed that the victim was a frequent visitor of De Venecia.

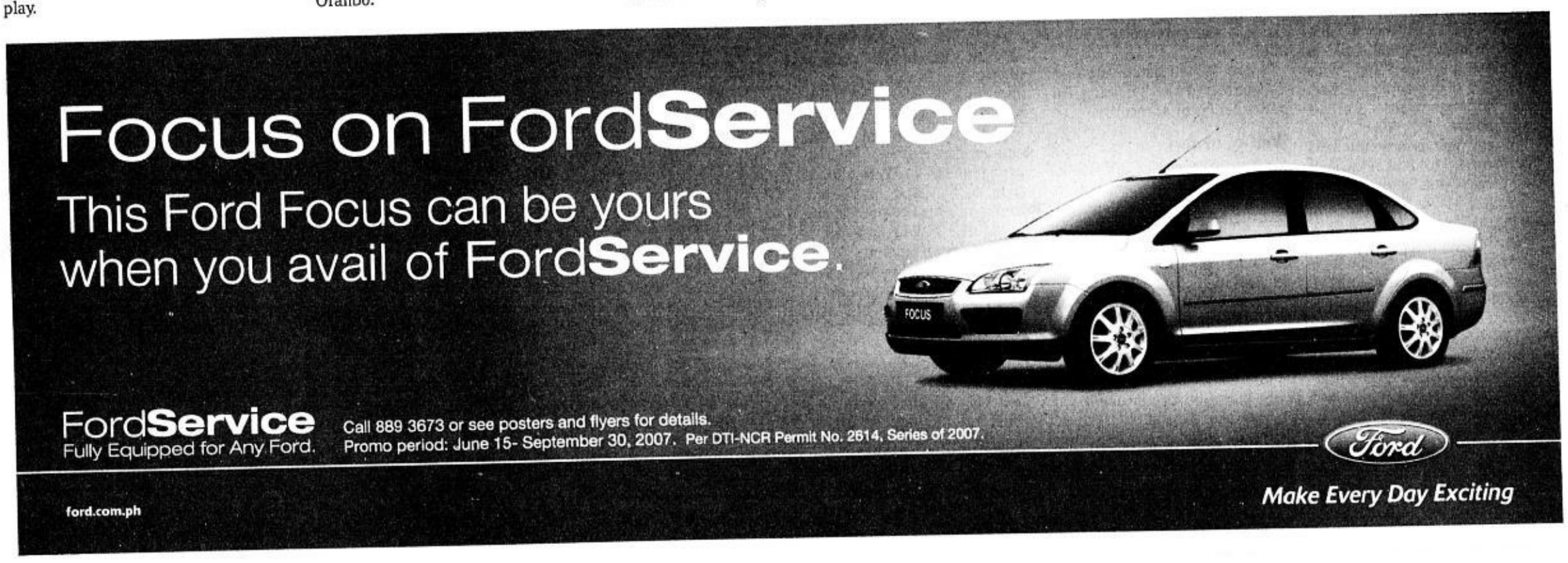
Uyami said they were informed that Reyes arrived with some companions in De Venecia's house at about 3 p.m.

He said the police were investigating Reyes' background and psychological condition before his death. Police brought Reyes' body to Camp Crame for an autopsy.

Uyami said they identified five persons, including another businessman and members of De Venecia's household, who were with Reyes or saw him in the condominium prior to his death.

Apart from De Venecia, police summoned for questioning Jose Palma, a businessman; Marivic Villa, De Venecia's house help; Ruel Jamosmos, driver and Jon-Jon Salvador, messenger

Uyami said all five submitted themselves to a paraffin test to determine the presence of gun powder residue. The five told police they were out of the house when the incident occurred.



'Little Vietnam' demolished today

By Allison W. Lopez

HOMES OF RESIDENTS OF Quiapo's notorious "Little Vietnam" will be dismantled today upon the orders of Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim.

Lim gave the go-signal yesterday for the eviction of the area's informal settlers, most of whom came from the South, after a dialogue with imams (religious leaders) and barangay leaders who signified their approval.

"Little Vietnam" gained notoriety for the killings that occurred there and alleged illegal drug activities.

"This is for the good of everybody. I have to do something about this village," said the mayor.

On June 20, the police discovered the bodies of two women in a drum filled with concrete in a house in Little Vietnam.

The victims, identified as Sarah Ampaso and "Noralyn," were stabbed to death. The killings were reportedly drug-related.

A follow-up operation the following week to dig up supposedly more than 10 bodies led instead to the arrest of alleged shabu users.

The decomposing body of an unidentified man was found floating on Estero San Miguel.

Following the crackdown, it was reported that some residents already fled the area along Arlegui Street that reportedly got the tag in the 1970s during the Vietnam War.

Lim said he already relocated settlers of "Little Vietnam" during his earlier term as mayor.

The demolition, Lim said, would not only help in the drive against crime, but also improve the image of the nearby Muslim community.

"There's an impression that Muslims are a troublesome lot. I vehemently disagree. We have problems with only about 1-2 percent of the residents," the mayor said.

"We cannot just accept the fact that, in the Muslim center, in the Muslim community, you can kill people in cold blood and get away with it ...This is also for the protection of law-abiding citizens in this community," said Lim, who appealed to leaders to support his campaign to rid the city of illegal drugs in six months.

Najib Munder, secretary general of the Manila Muslim Chamber of Commerce, said they would support the mayor, adding that they expected a lot of changes, especially after Lim instructed the police not to confiscate vendors' merchandise.

"We have waited long for this. We want this community to be developed, and we want everyone to feel free to go in and out of our area without being afraid," he said.

Lim, however, clarified that only legal merchandise—and not contraband items like pirated DVDs—would be allowed.

"We don't even ask the government for our livelihood. We can even manufacture our own products, as long as they allow us to start a business," said Munder.

Canadian Ambassador Peter Sutherland, who was in the meeting, said his government already had a number of programs for Muslims in Mindanao.

He said discussions with Islamic scholar Dr. Anver Emon of the University of Toronto were "very useful" because it covered Islamic laws and its application in areas where Muslims lived as the minority.

Lim said he would also make representations at the Supreme Court to see if a Sharia court could be established in the city, where 4,000 families lived in the Islamic Center alone.

METROBRIEFS

3 die in shootout

THREE suspected members of a gang linked to robberies and carjacking incidents were killed in a shootout with policemen in Tondo, Manila before dawn yesterday. Senior Supt. Ricardo Layug, chief of the Manila Police District Station 2, said they were only able to identify one of the slain suspects, a certain Alvin who was released from the Manila City Jail two weeks ago. The suspects were in the act of forcibly taking the motorcycle of Jose Luisito Olives, at the corner of Sta. Elena and Moriones Streets in Tondo around 4 a.m. when policemen chanced upon them. The suspects allegedly fired shots at the policemen, prompting the latter to retaliate. A policemen was hurt and is now confined at the Chinese General Hospital. The three suspects died at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center while undergoing treatment.

Tina G. Santos

Nabbed for fraud

A MAN claiming to be a nephew of Vice President Noli de Castro's wife was arrested by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation who found in his possession several high-powered firearms and ammunitions in Quezon City yesterday. Datu Blah Sinsuat Mama Jr., alias Boyet Mama, of New Capitol Estates, Quezon City, also allegedly defrauded several local officials of millions of pesos, the NBI said. It added that the suspect forged the signature of President Macapagal-Arroyo as well Cabinet secretaries and other top government officials. Mama, who claimed that his mother is a cousin of Arlene de Castro, wife of the Vice President, allegedly introduced himself as a lawyer who had the sole authority and power to award farm-to-market road construction projects and other projects for local government units, the NBI added. Seized from the suspect were some P1 million-worth of firearms and ammunition. The NBI said most of the firearms were unlicensed. Apart from Mama, also arrested were Suharto Sinsuat Mama and Sally Bangod. Another suspect, Maria Elena Santuille, remains at large. Mama claimed that the firearms were for "my protection."

Tina G. Santos

Taguig sets up security measures for Christina Aguilera concert

By Julie M. Aurelio

TAGUIG CITY HOPES TO ESTABLISH its credentials as "a complete-package city" with the help of big foreign artists like Grammy Awardee Christina Aguilera.

The singer is scheduled to perform at 7 tonight at the Fort Bonifacio Open Field.

Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga expressed confidence yesterday that the self-styled complete-package city would live up to the title by becoming a commercial, residential, entertainment and tourism hub.

"With Ms Aguilera's concert, Taguig is once again in the spotlight ... the whole world (will be) watching us as we welcome and embrace our favorite artist," Tinga said.

The pop and R&B singing sensation, on a "Back to Basics" concert tour, is the biggest foreign artist to hold a concert at the open field since Mariah Carey's "Charmbracelet" tour in 2003.

Some 90 policemen will be at the concert venue following Tinga's order for tight security.

Well-guarded

City police chief Supt. Alfred Corpus said 50 policemen from the Taguig City police and 40 from the Southern Police District will augment the 163 security personnel of Bonifacio Security Services Inc.

Concert organizers expect some 16,000 people to attend the concert.

Uniformed police officers will be stationed outside the field while plainclothes policemen will be deployed in the audience area.

Command posts will be set up in strategic locations of the open field.

Two bomb-sniffing dogs will be sweeping the whole venue every once in a while.

An ambulance, to be provided by Barangay Ususan, Taguig, and a fire truck will stand by, as part of the police's contingency plan.

"We cannot afford to be complacent with our security arrangements because this is such a big and important event. All eyes are once again on Taguig," Tinga pointed out.

Apart from Aguilera, other foreign artists who held concerts in the city were pop star Avril Lavigne and artist Jason Mraz.

Venue

The Fort Bonifacio Open Field was also the venue for "Yanig sa Taguig" in 2004, when Filipino boxing champion Manny Pacquiao defeated Thai boxer Fahsan "The Thai Destroyer" Sor Thawatchai.

'Weekends only' rallies puzzle militant group

By Allison W. Lopez

WITH NEWS THAT MENDIOLA would be open to rallies again, activists like those from Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) began seeking permits at the Manila mayor's office that would allow them entry into the area right across Malacañang.

But Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr. was surprised when he learned from the media that Mayor Alfredo Lim would grant them access to historical Mendiola Bridge—only on weekends and holidays.

Lim said earlier that he was banning rallies from Monday to Friday at Mendiola because the traffic caused by the demonstrations could affect students in nearby schools like San Beda College and Centro Escolar University.

"Under the law the only reason they can cite in denying a permit to rally is if it presents a 'clear and present danger.' There's no provision that rallies are limited to weekends only," said Reyes, quoting Batas Pambansa 880.

He assured the mayor—and the public—that their assemblies were "peaceful" and did not fall under a "clear and present danger" scenario.

Reyes said that while it was good news to them that Lim now allowed rallies in Mendiola, "a departure from the absolute ban during the Atienza administration," they could not, as a matter of principle, agree to the "restriction of the right to assemble in Mendiola to weekends and holidays."

Lim has yet to act on their application for a permit which was submitted yesterday. The rally, set on July 13, is aimed at protesting the Human Security Act.

It would be the organization's first official rally in Mendiola under the administration of the new mayor.

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6 Canadian troops killed in Afghan blast

A CANADIAN soldier heads out on a tank on a recovery mission after six Canadian troops were killed in southeastern Afghanistan on July 4. REUTERS

KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN—A bomb struck a Nato vehicle in southern Afghanistan Wednesday, killing six Canadian soldiers and their interpreter, while a German national was reported kidnapped in a remote and dangerous area.

The explosion occurred as a convoy of a dozen vehicles was returning from a joint operation with the Afghan national army, Canadian Brig. Gen. Tim Grant said.

"At approximately 11 o'clock this morning, six Canadian soldiers and one local Afghan interpreter were killed when the vehicle they were driving in struck an improvised explosive device about 20 kilometers southwest of Kandahar city," Grant said.

The convoy was returning after searching for militants in a village.

Most of Canada's 2,500-strong deployment with Nato's International Security Assistance Force is based in Kandahar which is at the heart of an insurgency by Taliban militants.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility but the Taliban movement regularly carries out such bombings on foreign troops.

It was one of the deadliest bombings of an ISAF vehicle. Six Canadian soldiers were killed in a similar blast on April 8. The deaths took to 105 the number of foreign soldiers killed in Afghanistan this year, most of them in combat.

Germany announced meanwhile that one of its citizens was considered kidnapped after being missing for more than a week.

An Afghan governor said he had been abducted in the southwestern province of Nimroz, not far from where two French nationals were captured in April and held by Taliban.

The Taliban has however not claimed to have kidnapped a foreigner. Criminal gangs in Afghanistan have also abducted people to demand ransom payments.

German Defense Minister Franz-Josef Jung said the missing man "works for a company." The foreign ministry said earlier he was not a journalist or an aid worker as some of the Taliban's previous captives have been.

"A German citizen has been missing in Afghanistan since last Thursday evening," ministry spokesperson Martin Jaeger told a press conference.

"On Saturday, a crisis unit was assembled in the foreign ministry," he said.

The governor of southwestern Nimroz province said the German had been seized in the Delaram district of Farah province, on the border with Nimroz.

"A German national, I don't exactly know for which organization he was working, was abducted on Monday in Delaram district area," Nimroz Gov. Ghulam Dastageer Azad said.

Azad did not say who the kidnappers might have been and the interior ministry in Kabul could not confirm the claim.

The area, on the main highway from southern to western Afghanistan, has seen several incidents with an Indian engineer abducted and beheaded nearby in late 2005.

The governor of Farah, Ghulam Mohaiddin Baluch, said the man had been introduced to police as a journalist and had passed through Delaram with his Afghan driver about a week ago on the way to the western city of Herat. *AFP*

Sri Lanka Tigers laud 322 suicide bombers

COLOMBO—SRI LANKA'S TAMIL Tiger rebels on Thursday commemorated the 20th anniversary of their first-ever suicide bombing by honoring 322 fighters who have staged such deadly attacks.

The suicide attacks by the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) started when a guerrilla known as Captain Miller drove a truck bomb into soldiers killing 40 on the Jaffna peninsula on July 5, 1987.

The pro-rebel Puthinam.com website said 322 members of the elite "Black Tiger" suicide squads had perished in attacks since then and that the group had deployed 61 suicide bombers in the past year alone.

Puthinam.com said 241 of the suicide bombers were killed in sea-going attacks while the others died in land-based blasts.

The guerrillas held Hindu religious services in rebel-held territory Thursday to invoke blessings on the Black Tigers, regarded by Tiger chief Velupillai Prabhakaran, 52, as the group's protective armor.

The deadliest Black Tiger attack occurred last Oct. 16 when Tigers drove a truck bomb into a transit point where 350 sailors were waiting to board buses in north-central Sri Lanka. At least 116 of them were killed.

Sri Lanka troops and police stepped up their already tight security arrangements in the run-up to the Black Tiger anniversary which comes amid an upsurge of fighting in the tropical island that began in late 2005.

"Measures are under way to heighten our alert during the Black Tiger week," police spokesperson Senior Deputy Inspector General Jayantha Wickramaratne said. "We are taking all measures to eliminate the risk of terrorist attacks. We are also seeking public cooperation for information regarding suspicious activity in their neighborhoods."

The Tamil Tigers are fighting for an independent homeland for the minority ethnic Tamils on the majority Sinhalese island. The 35-year-old conflict has claimed more than 60,000 lives. *AFP*

Would-be US citizens ply Fed courts for help

By Rebecca Boone

BOISE, IDAHO—FOR SIX YEARS, ALI AL-LATI has worked with the US military, teaching soldiers simple Iraqi words and commands, telling them about the cultural mores of his native land and offering advice on how to deal with the extreme weather they will face in Iraq.

He is a frequent visitor at the US Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana, and has passed the background checks necessary to work for a Department of Defense contractor.

But to another branch of the government, Al-Lati is still an unknown quantity. The Iraqi refugee is one of millions waiting for his name to be cleared by the FBI, a necessary step for US citizenship.

Now, he is turning to the federal courts for help. He is one of dozens around the United States suing the government because the FBI has yet to complete a process called a name check.

"I came to this country because I want to live here. I work hard here. I love this country," said Al-Lati, who has learned English and passed the prerequisite citizenship test. He has even passed a background check by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Both the FBI and the US Citizenship and Immigration Services acknowledge the delays are a problem. About 150,000 citizenship applications nationwide currently have a wait time longer than six months, said Maria Elena Upson, a spokesperson for the US Citizenship Immigration Service in Dallas.

"It's unacceptable, frankly, to have to wait this long. The agency understands that," said Upson, who said the agency is trying to find ways to expedite the process. "But you have to understand that USCIS receives millions of applications a year. One percent gets hung up on additional name checks."

The FBI completes about 62,000 name checks every week, said Trent Pedersen, a spokesperson with the bureau's Salt Lake City office, with close to 27,000 new requests coming from USCIS alone on a weekly basis.

The initial name checks are done electronically—names are entered into a database to see if the FBI has gathered any information on them in the past.

But even information on similar names yield results, or "hits," and each hit has to be investigated so that information can be forwarded on to USCIS.

Not all the information is stored electronically—there are paper files in many of the bureau's 265 offices nationwide—and tracking down the reason for each hit can take months, he said.

The wait may get worse before it gets better, warns Audrey Singer, an immigration fellow with the Brookings Institute. As lawmakers grapple over the best ways to ensure a secure nation—creating stricter laws on everything from residency green cards to passports to citizenship applications—agencies such as the FBI and Department of Homeland Security are bound to get more bogged down, she said.

"I can see future long lines and backlogs if the government doesn't prepare properly for these changes," she said.

Lawsuits are becoming more common, and would-be citizens in several states including Utah, California, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma and Idaho have sued in the hope of speeding up the process. *AP*

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1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites interested companies to apply for pre-qualification to bid for the provision of operation and maintenance services for building engineering systems and equipment at ADB Headquarters Building, located at No. 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines.
2. The Contractor shall provide all the necessary supervision, manpower, tools and equipment, and consumable materials, apart from those provided by ADB, handling transportation and other incidental works and services in ADB's premises. The scope of services is provided in detail in the Work Performance Statement to be given to interested applicants.
3. Prequalification documents may be obtained from the Procurement and Contracting Unit, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Room 1636 South, at the above address, from **9 to 20 July 2007** on any working day (9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.), upon presentation of the receipt of payment in cash or manager's check of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Three Hundred (P300.00) at ADB's Cash Room, Room G239W.
4. Applicants will be required to submit two copies (marked "Original" and "Copy") of applications for pre-qualification each in a sealed envelope, which must be delivered either by hand or by registered mail addressed to the Attention of the Head, Procurement and Contracting Unit, Room 1630 South, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Asian Development Bank, 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines, not later than **4:00 P.M., 3 August 2007**, and be clearly marked **"Application to Pre-qualify for Operation and Maintenance Services for Building Engineering Systems and Equipment."**
5. Only pre-qualified bidders shall be invited to participate in the bidding exercise to be conducted by ADB. Bid documents will be issued to pre-qualified bidders from **26 September to 9 October 2007**.
6. This Invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of the pre-qualification documents shall be borne solely by the applicant. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications for pre-qualification.

AMARJIT S. WASAN
Principal Director
Office of Administrative Services

Asian Development Bank ADB
FIGHTING POVERTY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

(PDI–July 5 & 6, 2007)

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

P.O. Box 789, Manila, Philippines
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
Tel. 632-4452; 632 4301; 632 4084; Fax No. 636 2577
Email: bccook@adb.org, nmanalo@adb.org or edagoy@adb.org

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY

ALTERATION AND IMPROVEMENT SERVICES
RP No.: 07/7908

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), a multilateral development financial institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites interested companies to apply for prequalification to bid for the provision of alteration and improvement services at ADB Headquarters Building, located at No. 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines.
2. The Contractor shall provide all the necessary architectural and engineering design concept, supervision, skilled personnel, tools, equipment, transportation and consumable materials to implement comprehensive alteration and improvement works. The Service includes among others, design (architecture, civil, structure, electrical, mechanical, instrumentation, and working drawings), construction of partitions, realignment of related building services, project studies, cost estimates, evaluation / installation of new equipment and other similar works that will improve the performance and function of building facilities. The scope of services is provided in detail in the Work Performance Statement to be given to interested applicants. It also includes the provision for, on an as need basis, the personnel listed in the Work Performance Statement.
3. Prequalification documents may be obtained from the Procurement and Contracting Unit, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Room 1636 South, at the above address from **9 to 20 July 2007** on any working day (9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.), upon presentation of the receipt of payment in cash or manager's check of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Three Hundred (P300.00) at ADB's Cash Room, Room G239W.
4. Applicants will be required to submit two copies (marked "Original" and "Copy") of applications for prequalification each in a sealed envelope, which must be delivered either by hand or by registered mail addressed to the Attention of the Head, Procurement and Contracting Unit, Room 1630 South, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Asian Development Bank, 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines, not later than **4:00 P.M., 3 August 2007**, and be clearly marked **"Application to Pre-qualify for Alteration and Improvement Services."**
5. Only prequalified bidders shall be invited to participate in the bidding exercise to be conducted by ADB. Bid documents will be issued to prequalified bidders from **26 September to 9 October 2007**.
6. This Invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of the prequalification documents shall be borne solely by the applicant. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications for prequalification.

(Sgd.) AMARJIT S. WASAN
Principal Director
Office of Administrative Services

Asian Development Bank ADB
FIGHTING POVERTY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

(PDI–July 5 & 6, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
IBM PHILIPPINES, INC. 2nd-4th Flrs. IBM Plaza, 8 Eastwood Ave., Eastwood City Cyberpark, E. Rodriguez Jr., Ave., Libis, Quezon City	Lai Kum Chan	Finance Controller
ESPERANT SYSTEM PHILIPPINES CORP. 23/F Summit One Tower, 530 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City	Tomoaki Tsutsumi	Programmer Technician
ESPERANT SYSTEM PHILIPPINES CORP. 23/F Summit One Tower, 530 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City	Masanori Harada	Vice President
ACQUIRE ASIA PACIFIC PHILIPPINES, INC. 24/F Trafalgar Plaza, H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Maximilian Frank Tennant	Treasurer
ACQUIRE ASIA PACIFIC PHILIPPINES, INC. 24/F Trafalgar Plaza, H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Jonathan James Smith	Director of Operations
CARAT PHILIPPINES, INC. 10/F Liberty Center, 104 H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Jacob Matthew Vander Linden	Senior Vice President & Head of Communications, Planning, P & G
NEW CENTURY OVERSEAS MANAGEMENT, INC. 6/F Feliza Bldg., 108 V.A. Rufino St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Jun Sakaguchi	Deputy General Manager
TOUR WANNABE, INC. 2/F Financial Center Bldg., D. Macapagal Ave., Pasay City	Kihyun Kim	Asst. Sales Consultant
DAEBAK IT TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 1724 A. Mabini St., cor. Alonzo St., Malate, Manila	Kyung-Ho Kim	Vice President
DAEBAK IT TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 1724 A. Mabini St. cor. Alonzo St., Malate, Manila	Jong Yong Kim	President
P-PASS PHILIPPINES CO., INC. Unit 6-B Strata 2000 Bldg., F. Ortigas Jr. Rd., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Haesung Lee	Chief Operating Officer
CERULEAN BKUE ADVISORS INC. 30B Excelsior Tower 1, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City	Christopher Michael George Maier	Chairman
MAERSK-FILIPINAS INC. 51/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave. cor. Rufino St., Makati City	Claus Martin Olesen	General Manager
FUTURE CAREERS RECRUITMENT AGENCY, INC. Suite 304-A Gedisco Bldg., 1564 Mabini St. cor. Pedro Gil, Ermita, Manila	Eihab Salah Taha Farahat	Consultant
CLIP & TRIM INT'L. CO., LTD. Unit 104-A Residencia 8888 cor. Pearl Drive, Amethyst St., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Eun Hee Park (w/o Kim)	Supervisor
ELITE ENGLISH TRAINING CENTER, INC. 1105 Page I Bldg., Acacia Avenue, MBP, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Kyoung Woo Han	International Account Manager
KING DNARMSA INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES, INC. 606 AIC Burgundy Empire Tower ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, San Antonio, Pasig City	Xunping Zheng	Finance Manager
KING DNARMSA INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES, INC. 606 AIC Burgundy Empire Tower, ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, San Antonio, Pasig City	Yuqin Fu	Marketing Manager
JOTUN (SINGAPORE) PTE. LTD. Unit 601 1 Legacy Place Don Cabarrus Ave. Alabang Hills, Muntinlupa City	Song Peng Tan	Area Manager
XAVIER SCHOOL, INC. 64 Xavier St., Greenhills West, San Juan, Metro Manila	Yun Cao	Grade School Chinese Teacher
FNS LOGISTICS INC. 25/F Antel 2000 Corporate Center, 121 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Inkyun Kang	Assistant General Manager

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

The DOLE conducts free seminar on Labor-Human Relations and Productivity. For more information, please call 336-2013 & 303-8020.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI - July 6 2007)

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Britain lowers threat level to severe

LONDON—WITH EIGHT SUSPECTS IN A PAIR OF failed car bombings in police custody, Britain lowered its national threat level to severe on Wednesday, while announcing that it would review its procedures for screening foreign-born doctors. *(See sidebar.)*

Britain's home secretary, Jacqui Smith, said the decision to lower the threat from critical—its highest level—had been made after authorities concluded there was "no intelligence to suggest that an attack is expected imminently." But she said, "there remains a serious and real threat against the United Kingdom, and I would ask again that the public remain vigilant."

Days after the bungled attempts to blow up vehicles in London and at the Glasgow airport in Scotland, the police are confident that the main suspects have been rounded up, a police official said, speaking on condition of anonymity, as is customary.

Attention is now turning to unraveling the links within this multinational circle of seven doctors and one of their wives to determine how their network was organized. Investigators swarmed over two houses in Liverpool, where one of the arrested doctors was believed to have lived.

Police officers in jumpsuits carried out bags stuffed with computer hard drives and documents from the two-story brick row houses.

Already, the web extends to Bangalore, India, where two suspects went to the same medical school, and Brisbane, Australia, where one of them was picked up by the police while trying to board a flight.

"There are various overseas connections," the official said, adding, "It's possible there may be an interesting Iraqi angle."

The possibility of links to Qaida leaders in Iraq was underscored by an Anglican cleric living in Iraq who said that he was warned in April about attacks in Britain.

The cleric, Canon Andrew White, said that at a gathering of Iraqi religious leaders in Amman, Jordan, on April 18, one of them said mysteriously that "those who cure you will kill you."

Britain will conduct a thorough review of its policies for screening foreign doctors who want to practice here, Prime Minister Gordon Brown announced Wednesday. Brown, speaking in Parliament, said the government would also expand its worldwide "watch list" of potential terrorists. *New York Times*

All 8 suspects in attacks are medical professionals

LONDON—ALL EIGHT PEOPLE arrested in the aftermath of two bungled car bombings here last week are from the medical profession, a British police official said Tuesday, rattling a national health service that has long relied on foreign doctors to fill its understaffed hospitals.

The seven men are physicians, according to the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, while the lone woman, the wife of one, is a laboratory technician. Police are now working to unravel links and prior contacts within this far-flung expatriate medical circle.

For the British public, the prospect of highly educated professionals as terror suspects is a chilling departure from the home-grown Muslim terrorists, many with family roots in Pakistan, who have been implicated in previous conspiracies here.

It may also prompt a debate over whether Britain's health system should have tightened its regulations for hiring foreign doctors before last year, when it was possible for doctors to move here and practice without a work permit, provided they established their medical credentials.

"Clearly, it will be debated," said Soroosh Firoozan, an Iranian-born cardiologist who practices near Oxford. "There has already been a bit of a move to exclude foreign doctors from training in the U.K."

Britain remained jittery on Tuesday, with police evacuating parts of London's Heathrow Airport after a security scare, stranding hundreds of passengers outside in a rainstorm. They also carried out "controlled explosions" near a subway station here and outside a mosque in Glasgow, Scotland.

Police arrested two more men on suspicion of terrorism after reports that canisters of gas were delivered to an industrial site in Blackburn, in northwest England. Officials would not say whether these arrests were linked to the incidents in London and Glasgow, in which gas canisters were also used.

Yet the most unsettling news may have been fresh details about the men linked to the plot to detonate two car bombs in London's West End district, and an attack the following day at the Glasgow airport, in which two men rammed a Jeep Cherokee into the terminal and set it ablaze.

The driver of the vehicle is a another doctor, named Khalid Ahmed, according to an official with knowledge of the investigation. Video of Ahmed after the incident, shown on British television on Tuesday, appeared to show a young man. He was severely burned in the fire, and is under guard in a hospital near Glasgow.

Also on Tuesday, Britain's BBC-2 broadcast an interview with Shiraz Maher, a former member of the radical Hizb ut-Tahrir Islamic group, who described himself as a onetime friend of Bilal Abdullah, an Iraqi doctor who was in the Jeep with Ahmed and is also under arrest. *New York Times Service*

Captured cleric asks followers to surrender

ISLAMABAD—THE CAPTURED LEADER OF a besieged Pakistani mosque Thursday called on his followers to give themselves up, as dozens more surrendered after security forces set off loud "warning" blasts.

Abdul Aziz said in a bizarre television interview conducted wearing a veil that around 250 male students, some armed with assault rifles, and up to 800 women remain inside the Lal Masjid, or Red Mosque.

The pro-Taliban mosque has been under siege by troops and police since Tuesday when fierce street battles between its hardline followers and security forces left at least 16 people dead.

"After coming out I saw the siege was massive and came to the conclusion that we should give up," he told state television. "The government has massive resources and I realized that people will not be able to stay inside for long."

Aziz appeared at the start of the interview in a black burqa under which his grey beard was visible. The interviewer asked him to take off the veil, which he then lifted to show his face.

In a major coup for the government, he was caught late Wednesday trying to flee through a cordon around the mosque with several other women while dressed in a burqa. Officials said he was spotted because of his pot belly and unusual height.

"I have told them not to sacrifice their lives for me," he said.

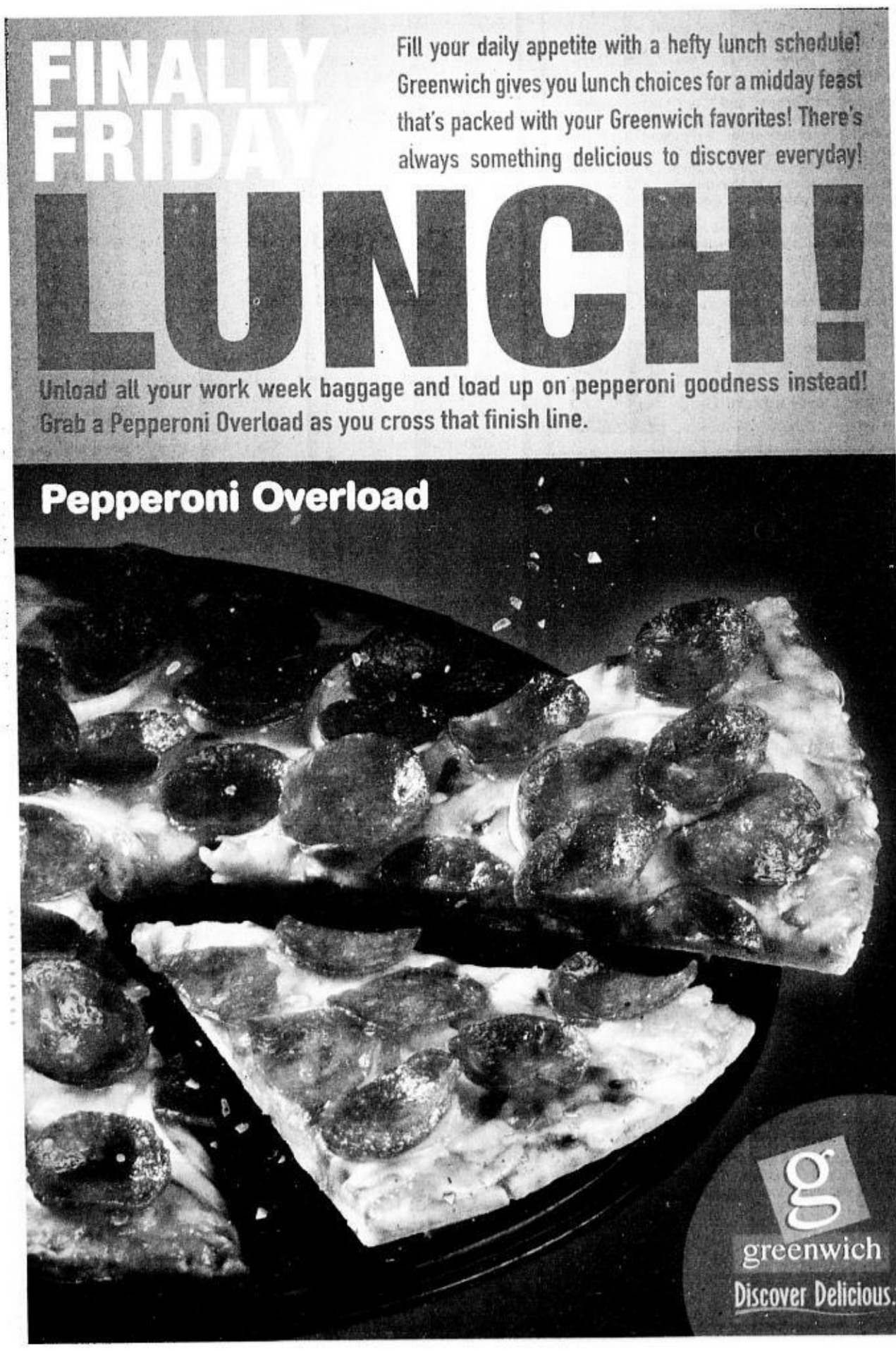
PICTURE taken March 28 shows radical Pakistani cleric Abdul Aziz (second, right) surrounded by guards as he stands on a roof of the Lal Masjid or Red Mosque during a protest. AFP

At least 50 more students left the mosque on Thursday, a day after another 1,200 fled.

The government announced a two-hour break in a shoot-on-sight curfew imposed on Wednesday on the block where the mosque is located—but said it did not apply to the area immediately around the complex.

Security forces stepped up the pressure on those holed up in the mosque before dawn by detonating seven loud explosives charges and smashing down one of its doors with an armored personnel carrier.

The students hurled several grenades and opened fire in return. There were no casualties. *AFP*



China pollution turning rivers into 'sticky glue,' says official

BEIJING—CHINESE ANGER WITH WORSENing pollution is fueling increasing protests, the nation's top environmental official said, criticizing local governments who he said protected factories turning rivers into "sticky glue."

Chief of the State Environmental Protection Administration (Sepa), Zhou Shengxian, said discontent with pollution "has resulted in a rising number of 'mass incidents'"—an official euphemism for riots, protests and collective petitions—the official Xinhua news agency reported late on Wednesday.

Speaking to officials, Zhou did not give overall numbers for such acts but said Sepa had received 1,814 citizen petitions in the first five months of this year demanding an improved environment, an 8-percent rise on the same period of 2006, Xinhua reported.

The government has been struggling to curb pollution from the factories, mines and industrial plants that have driven frantic growth. China has promised to cut emissions of major pollutants by 10 percent between 2006 and 2010, but last year the country failed to meet the annual target.

Zhou lambasted local officials, eager to generate revenue and jobs, who have fended off pollution controls on local businesses.

"In a considerable number of regions, the Party center's and State Council's demands in environmental protection have not been implemented," he said.

"Some businesses don't rest deep in the night when they have no scruples about dumping pollution in rivers."

A recent inspection of the Yellow, Yangtze and other major rivers and lakes found that about half the 75 wastewater treatment plants checked either under-performed or did not work at all, and 44 percent of 529 businesses checked violated environmental laws, Zhou said. *Reuters*

Qaida No. 2 urges strikes on West

DUBAI—OSAMA BIN LADEN'S right-hand man Ayman al-Zawahiri issued a new video calling for Islamic fighters to strike Western interests worldwide and for regime change in Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

"The struggle against the corrupt regimes and the corruptors is in two phases ... In the short term, one must take aim at the interests of the Crusaders and Jews," Zawahiri said in the 95-minute video shown on Wednesday.

"All those who have attacked the (Islamic) nation must pay the price, in our countries and theirs, in Iraq, in Afghanistan, in Palestine and in Somalia, but above all where one can strike a blow against their interests," he said.

It was the eighth video released by Zawahiri so far this year, but contained no reference to the failed car bombing attacks in London and Glasgow, nor an attack on Spanish tourists in Yemen that left nine people dead.

It was issued by al-Qaida's media outlet As-Sahab as the United States marked the July 4 independence day. *AFP*

NORTH ATLANTIC WONDER
Visitors gaze out over Geituskorafles rock on Vagar Island in the Faeroe Islands, a stunningly beautiful string of islands about halfway between Norway and Iceland in the North Atlantic Ocean. AP

WHAT'S INSIDE

Phone Pals, Aces begin title series/A28

SPORTS

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Henin razes Williams sisters' finals scenario /A29

JAYJAY Helterbrand (13) looks for the open man in the game against Japan.

San Miguel-RP cagers thwart pesky Koreans

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

TAIPEI—THE PHILIPPINES showed it could win a close game after all.

The Filipinos came back from the agony of two heart-breaking losses to down a pesky South Korean squad, 88-84, and bounce back in contention Thursday in the 29th William Jones Cup International basketball tournament here.

Unlike in their 86-84 loss to Japan, the Nationals converted their shots down the stretch, including eight of 10 free throws in the final five minutes, to improve their record to 2-2.

The Filipinos moved into a tie for second with Jordan, the United States, Qatar, Iran and South Korea. Lebanon, the leader at 3-0, was playing host Taiwan at presstime.

The Jordanians duplicated an earlier RP achievement by conquering the Americans, 69-66. The US first lost to San Miguel-Pilipinas, 72-67, Monday.

Qatar blasted Kazakhstan, 80-70, while Iran posted an 86-59 rout of Japan.

The Filipinos will tackle the Jordanians at 3:30 p.m. Friday and then the Iranians at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday.

"With both teams coming off a win, it should be a great match," said national coach Chot Reyes of the game with Jordan.

Jordan coach Mario Palma put little importance to the match, but said it would give him a close look at the Filipinos.

"I don't think the match will be important," he said. "It is a study game for both of us."

Playing with a sense of purpose this time, the Filipinos engaged the Koreans in a torrid 3-point shooting duel with both teams making identical 9 of 22 attempts.

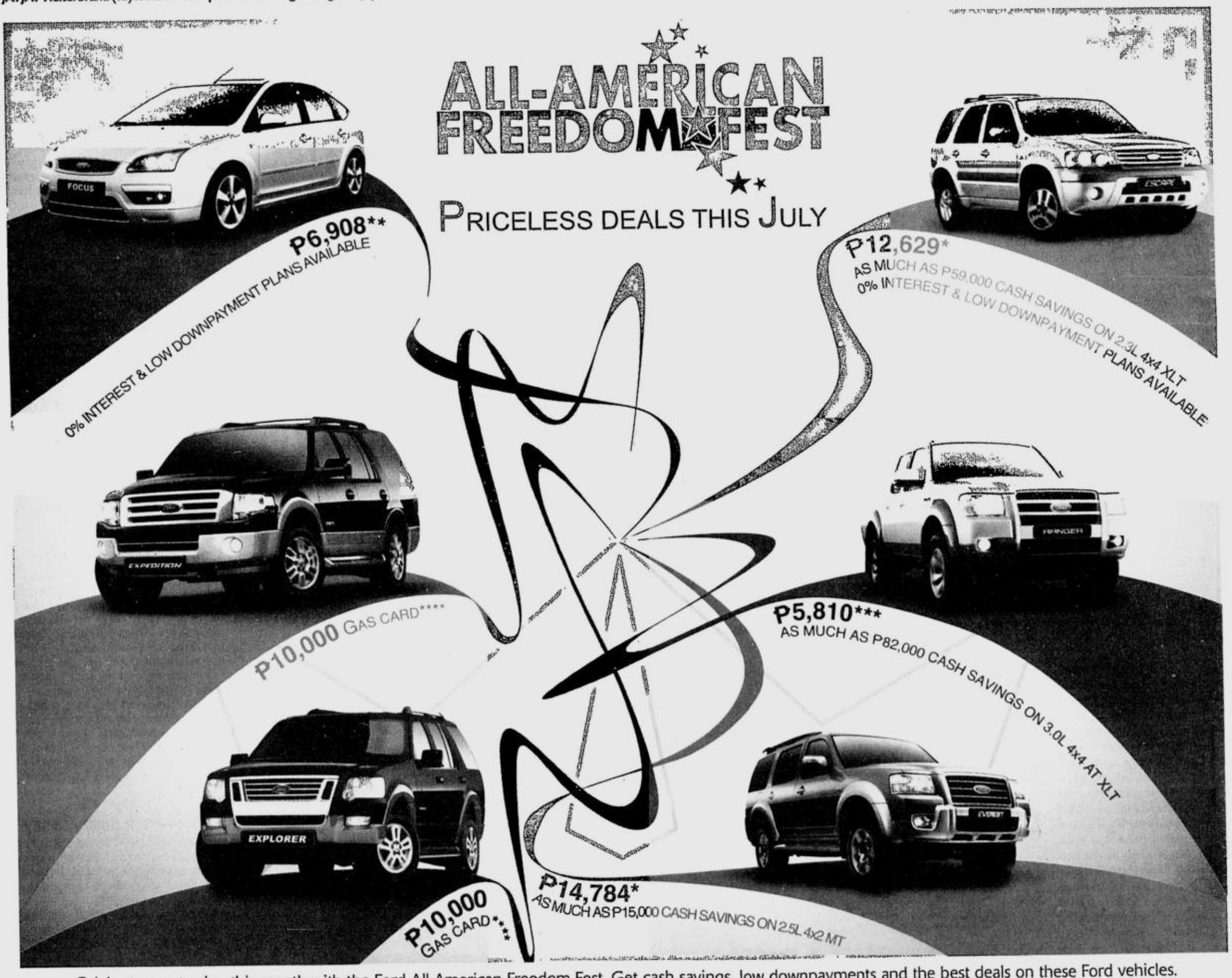
Reyes fielded his men with victory foremost in his mind, and the Nationals took the lead at the end of the first quarter. The Koreans took the half, though, at 43-41.

Gabe Norwood returned the lead to RP after three periods, 69-68, before Kelly Williams, Mark Caguioa and Dondon Hontiveros gave the Filipinos some breathing room at 78-75.

The Koreans kept coming back but steady free throw shooting that included three of four shots by Asi Taulava, proved decisive for the Filipinos.

After two Jayjay Helterbrand charities for 86-

SAN MIGUEL-RP/ A28



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Letran	2	0
Jose Rizal	1	1
S. Sebastian	1	1
Perpetual	1	2
St. Benilde	1	2
Mapua	0	3

GAMES TODAY (*The Arena, San Juan*)
2 p.m.—Letran vs San Sebastian (Srs)
4 p.m.—Jose Rizal vs Mapua (Srs)

Knights seek top spot; Cardinals eye 1st win

LETRAN TRIES TO GRAB A SHARE OF THE lead and win No. 3 even as Mapua merely hopes to score its first when they tackle separate rivals today in the NCAA men's basketball tournament at The Arena in San Juan City.

Standing in Letran's way in the 2 p.m. opener is San Sebastian, which is coming from a loss. Mapua, on the other hand, attempts to step into the winning column against Jose Rizal at 4 p.m.

The Knights are happy with the way they started this season but coach Louie Alas is discontented with the way they posted the first two victories, allowing an average of 80.5 points per game.

If he will have his way, Alas wants to limit opponents to at least 60 points per game as the Knights are known to be a highly defensive team.

"We gave up too many points in the first two games, said Alas. "This is not the Knights' basketball style I've seen the past two years. I hope we can correct them as soon as possible."

The Knights just might succeed against San Sebastian, which is not only nursing a 68-66 loss to Jose Rizal last June 27, but is also averaging just 62.5 points counting its 59-56 win over Perpetual in the opener.

Letran will pin its hopes on Dino Daa and Bryan Faundo plus a bevy of capable rookies, while San Sebastian will rely on 6-foot-6 Jason Ballesteros and 6-foot-3 Jim Viray.

The Cardinals are still looking for a game that would turn things around after they fell to Sam Ekwe-less San Beda last Wednesday, 87-77.

Their third straight victory in as many outings gave the defending champion Red Lions of coach Frankie Lim solo top spot in the eight-team field.

But that would be a tall order considering that the Heavy Bombers are riding on the crest of their victory over the Stags.

"I think the boys finally recovered from that loss in the opener (against San Beda) and got their self-confidence back," said Jose Rizal coach Ariel Vanguardia.

Manning the fort for Jose Rizal are former Philippine Youth player Maui Pradas, Jayson Nocom and James Sena.

Mapua, now being mentored by former pro Leo Isaac, will lean on Mark Acosta, rookie Jonathan Banal, shooter Sean Co and center Jerbey Del Rosario. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

Phone Pals, Aces begin title series

A LONG DROUGHT IS ABOUT TO END AND ANOTHER ONE WILL GET LONGER as the PBA Fiesta Cup title series between Alaska and Talk 'N Text starts tonight at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao.

GAMES TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:35 p.m.—Red Bull vs San Miguel Beer
7:20 p.m.—Alaska vs Talk 'N Text

Still without a championship to show after a combined 12 PBA conferences, the Aces and the Phone Pals slug it out at the start of what is expected to be a long, slam-bang series in the 7:20 p.m. contest.

"This is going to be war," said Alaska Tim Cone, the 50-year-old tactician who established a dynasty in the 1990s but has never been a winner since the 2000 All-Filipino Conference.

"It's a pretty even series and we are preparing for a long one," said Talk 'N Text mentor Derrick Pumaren, whose last championship came in the 1996 Reinforced with Swift and who will be shooting for the Phone Pals' first in five years.

Alaska will start the series one key player short—at least for the first two games—as Jeffrey Cariaso is still recovering from a slight MCL tear.

And this is one hole that Cone is expected to plug.

While the coaching match-up provides for much interest, the one for the imports is also proving to be intriguing.

The quietly effective Rosell Ellis will try to deliver a championship to the Aces while the high-flying and youthful JJ Sullinger will lead the Phone Pals with his flamboyant ways.

Willie Miller and Mike Cortez will be the top locals for the Aces in the absence of Cariaso, while Mac Cardona, it seems, is the one Cone would need to stop in order to have a solid chance at beating the Phone Pals.

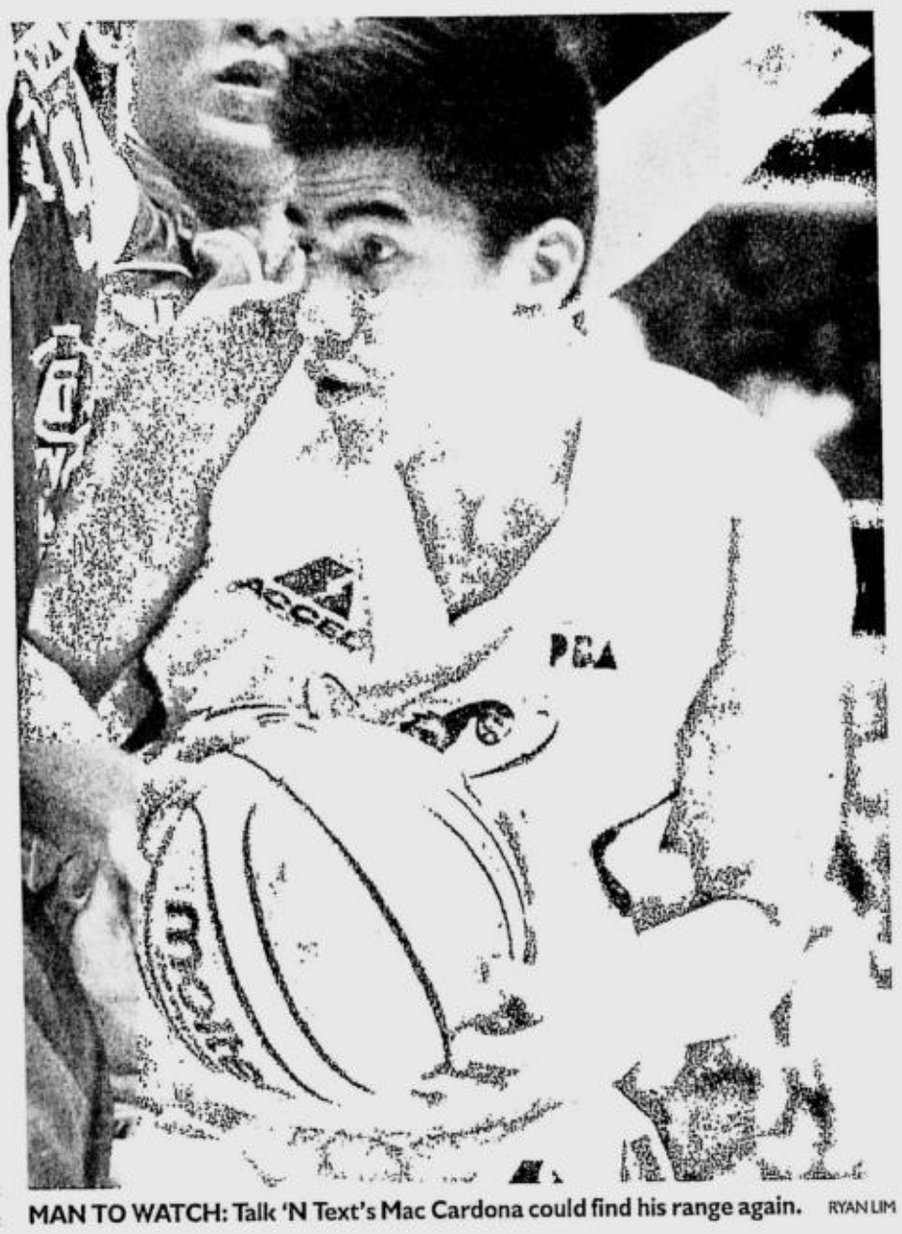
Cardona has assumed superstar status after the Phone Pals' semifinal series with Red Bull. The former La Salle standout shot the lights out of the defending champions in averaging more than 30 points a contest.

He also rewrote his career high in scoring three times, shooting 38 in the series-clinching victory on Sunday.

"Scoring many points is not my primary goal," Cardona said in Filipino. "Those career high marks were just a coincidence. I would like to do whatever it takes for my team to win. I'll play, even if they kill me out there."

Talk 'N Text has a seeming advantage in size and Cone would have to get his entire frontline to contribute and stop a formidable rotation of the Phone Pals, composed of Harvey Carey, Don Allado, Yancy de Ocampo and Jay Washington.

Sonny Thoss and John Ferriols need to literally play big in the series and be at par, if not dominate, with their counterparts at TNT. *Musong R. Castillo*



MAN TO WATCH: Talk 'N Text's Mac Cardona could find his range again. RYAN LIM

SPORTSWATCH

Del Mundo gains tie for 3rd in World Open chess

UNITED STATES-BASED FILIPINO ANTON Paolo del Mundo defeated American Craig Jones in the eighth and penultimate round Wednesday to be in a six-way tie for third place in the under-2400 section of the 35th World Open Chess Championships in Pennsylvania.

Del Mundo, former Ateneo chess team stalwart, scored his sixth point in the section which offers US$20,000 to the winner. With an Elo rating of 2296, Del Mundo is aiming to become the country's newest Fide Master.

Former Asian junior champion Marlo Micayabas beat another American, Matt Parry, to raise his total to 5.5 points.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

NGAP sets two-stage national team qualifier

A TWO-STAGE QUALIFIER WILL BE HELD to determine the composition of the national golf team competing in three international tournaments this year, including the Southeast Asian Games in Thailand in December.

The National Golf Association of the Philippines said the first leg of the 72-hole stroke-play eliminations will be held at The Riviera's Couples layout in Silang, Cavite, on Aug. 28 to 31 with the second slated on Sept. 4 to 7 at the venue's Langer course.

Reigning national champion Jay Bayron and Asian Games bronze medalist Michael Bibat are expected to lead the cast.

After the first leg, only the top 50 percent of the field plus ties and those who are 10 strokes down from the top scorer will advance to the 72-hole qualifying. The top six will land berths in the national squad.

The NGAP is reserving a slot to the winner of the RP Amateur slated in September. Deadline for listing is Aug. 10.

The Philippines will compete in the Nomura Cup slated Oct. 2-5 in Taipei; the 47th Putra Cup on Nov. 27-30 at The Country Club in Laguna; and the SEAG in Thailand.

Tiger's AT&T golf on Solar

SOLAR SPORTS WILL TELECAST ALL FOUR rounds of the PGA Tour's AT&T National slated July 6 to 9 at the Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Maryland. Live coverage of the Tour's maiden tournament starts at 3 a.m.

This is the first Tour event hosted by world No. 1 Tiger Woods.

Cage clinic up at Xavier

XAVIER BASKETBALL ACADEMY (XBA) will hold basketball clinics for boys and girls 5 years old and above at the Fr. Rafael Cortina Sports Center of Xavier School in Greenhills, San Juan. The clinics will also accept non-Xavier School participants.

Head coach Nemie Villegas said the clinic has Wednesday sessions from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m, while Saturday sessions are from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., and 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Combined Wednesday and Saturday sessions (12 two-hour sessions) cost P2,500, while Saturday or Wednesday sessions (six two-hour session) are for P1,700.

For inquiries, call Irnee at 726-4855 or 727-3329.

Pasay 4-cock derby today

THE MUCH-AWAITED ONE-ON-ONE DUELS among some of the country's finest cockfighters begin today at the Pasay City Cockpit via a special 4-cock derby sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000.

Veteran gaffers Noli Estrellado and Albert Margem are hosting the event which dangles a P300,000 prize for the champions.

Estrellado and Margem's clients seeing action today include Patrick Antonio, Pol Estrellado, Richard Bates, Gov. Ito Ynares, Ricky Reyes, Boy Marzo, Osang dela Cruz, the Super Pacman entry and Efren Canlas.

Meanwhile, the venue's new 2-cock ulutan" hackfight format starts this Sunday, said pit managers Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano.

Ex-PBA cagers may don RP colors, says Baculi

By Jasmine W. Payo

EVEN RETIRED PBA CAGERS HAVE A CHANCE TO play for the national team.

National coach Junel Baculi yesterday encouraged former pro cagers to join the all-amateur Philippine team that will see action in the Southeast Asian Games this December in Thailand.

"We need their experience," said Baculi. "There are plenty of talents in the PBL and other leagues, even in the collegiate ranks, but we need one or two ex-pros who are big and mobile."

Baculi extended the invitation to the veterans as the tryouts for the national pool resumes at 10 a.m. today at the Reyes Gym in Mandaluyong.

Two-time PBL Most Valuable Player Jason Castro and Harbour Centre teammate Chico Lanete led the list of aspirants who joined the first day of tryouts last Wednesday.

Other amateur cagers expected to show up today include Chad Alonzo, Beau Belga and Jerwin Gaco of PBL champion Harbour Centre, Toyota Balintawak Fil-Am Joe Devance, Burger King's Mike Bravo, Nestor David, Josh Urbiztondo and Mike Dizon, Dazz's Robert Sanz and Magnolia's Bonbon Custodio.

PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad issued a memorandum to all league members urging their top players to participate in the tryouts.

"We all have to cooperate because this is for the country," he said.

Baculi said all aspirants, including Castro and the other members of the Philippine-Harbour Centre team that captured the Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) Champions Cup title, need to go through the tryouts.

Harbour Centre owner Mikee Romero, project director of the SEAG basketball team, has already allotted P10 million for the squad's local and overseas training.

RECORD RUN

Daijobo's success, with jockey Jonathan Hernandez on top, cruises to a track record-setting victory against a crack field in last Sunday's Marho Chair Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. Cup at Santa Ana Park. The 6-year-old mare from Australia clocked 1:38.6 over 1,600 meters to break the old mark held by Ever Mine Now. Inset, horse owner Manila Rep. Amado Bagatsing (third from left) receives the ECJ Cup from former Marho president Aristeo Puyat, representing Cojuangco. With them (from left) are Marho directors Chito Borromeo and Eric Tagle and cup presenters.

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—Unopposed (2), Flush Away (3)
Race 2—(Super /Qrt/Tri)—Shutter (11), District Three (3), Regent Skipper (1), Dalcross (4), Stoops (8), Windlass (5)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—El Cid (6), Queen of Gaia (3), Gold Collar (4), Empire Maker (5)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Dixie Dash (9), C Tonet (10), Ideal Gaze (4), Native Prince (3), Take Ten (2)
Race 5—(Stratosphere (3), Tervalac (5), Beat D'Ace/Brown Carpet (4)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Twist and Shout (6), Brazen Truth (5), Order of Merit (3), Mandalay Bay (4)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Reign of the Jungle (1), Cool Turner (3), Power Dance (6), Seeing Red (4)
Race 8—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—King Aljhun (5), Nitty Gritty (7), Golden Touch (1), Mutiara (3), Selfmade (5)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Nice Legs (1), Grey Angel (1), Rain Dancer (7), Flame of the Wind (5), Affirmed Queen (3), Complexion (3)

Condes to Rachman: You're old, quit now

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

JAKARTA—FILIPINO MANDATORY challenger Florante "The Little Pacquiao" Condes has advised IBF minimumweight champ Muhammad Rachman to hang up his gloves after their 12-round encounter on Saturday at the RCTI TV Studio here.

Condes, in a light mood, told the INQUIRER in Filipino yesterday that "Rachman is old and should retire after I'm done with him."

Such is the confidence of a fighter who has finally got the chance to win a boxing crown for his country.

If successful, Condes will become the first Filipino world champion after a long while. The Philippines does not have a world title-holder, and although superstar Manny Pacquiao is considered the best in his division, he only holds the lesser WBC International belt.

Condes has worked out at the gym of promoter Tourino Tidar and that of Johnny Co, manager of Indonesian Hengky Wuwungan.

The fight will not be shown "live" in the Philippines, but Condes' manager Aljoe Jaro plans to bring home a tape of the fight if his ward wins.

Condes, from Looc, Romblon, has been unbeaten since 2005 and 20 of his 21 wins were by knockout.

Archer's eligibility papers fail to win over UAAP panel

By Jasmine W. Payo

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY HAS PROCURED documents proving the Filipino lineage of rookie Bader Malabes, but the UAAP eligibility committee has remained unconvinced.

The panel will convene to discuss the eligibility status of Bader Malabes—a streaky shooter from Bahrain—after noting that the pertinent documents La Salle submitted yesterday lacked the signature of an associate commissioner from the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation (BID).

La Salle faxed to the league copies of the BID certification of Malabes, including an affirmation from the Department of Justice, two days before the start of basketball competition this Saturday.

League rules limit to two the number of foreign players in each team.

The Archers, who will return to action this season after serving a one-year suspension, already listed Serbian Marko Batricevic and Indonesian Ferdinand as its two imports.

Thus, fielding Malabes may put La Salle one over the number of foreign players.

The UAAP has asked the eligibility panel to decide on Malabes' status by Saturday morning, just hours before the Archers debut against the University of the Philippines Maroons at 2 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum.

Bro. Bernie Oca, La Salle's representative to the UAAP board, earlier said the Archers were ready to compete with a 14-man roster even if Malabes was declared ineligible.

The Archers served a one-year suspension last year for inadvertently fielding two ineligible players in three consecutive seasons.

San Mig-RP . . .

From page A27

82, a 3-on-1 fastbreak completed by Norwood finally did the Koreans in, 88-82, with 10 seconds left.

Caguioa finished with a team-high 19 points while Taulava highlighted an outstanding night by holding Korea's 7-4 giant Ha Seung-jin to only five points.

The scores:

SAN MIGUEL-RP 88—Caguioa 19, Hontiveros 14, Norwood 12, Helterbrand 9, Taulav 7, Williams 7, Alapag 6, Raymundo 5, Menk 4, Ritualo 3, Pennisi 2, De Ocampo 0.

SOUTH KOREA 84—Kim DW 20, Kang BH 16,Kim MS 14, Lee KS 11, Kim SH 9, Yang 5, Ha 5, Lee DH 4, Cha 0.

Quarters: 22-19. 41-43.69-68. 88-84

Putin helps Sochi secure 2014 Winter Olympics hosting

GUATEMALA CITY—THE BLACK Sea resort of Sochi, boosted by the personal intervention of Russian president Vladimir Putin, won the right to stage the 2014 Winter Olympic Games on Wednesday.

Putin came to Guatemala to address the International Olympic Committee session and his polished performance, in English, French and Spanish, wooed members who responded by awarding the Games to Sochi by just four votes.

Sochi gained 51 votes to upset favourites Pyeongchang of South Korea who took 47 votes in the second round of the ballot.

The third candidate, Salzburg of Austria had been eliminated in the first round with 25 votes behind Pyeongchang on 36 and Sochi on 34.

The Russian delegation erupted in elation after IOC president Jacques Rogge opened the envelope to announce the winning bid.

Putin, who had left the session before the vote to return to Moscow, called from his plane. "He was excited and he congratulated each and every one of us," said Russian deputy prime minister Alexander Zhuchov.

Sochi had started the bid as outsiders as none of their venues have yet been built. But they made up ground with a slick campaign and Putin's support may ultimately have been the final ingredient for success.

Rogge had not been surprised by Sochi's victory. "I had predicted a close call and it was a close call but Sochi won deservedly," he added.

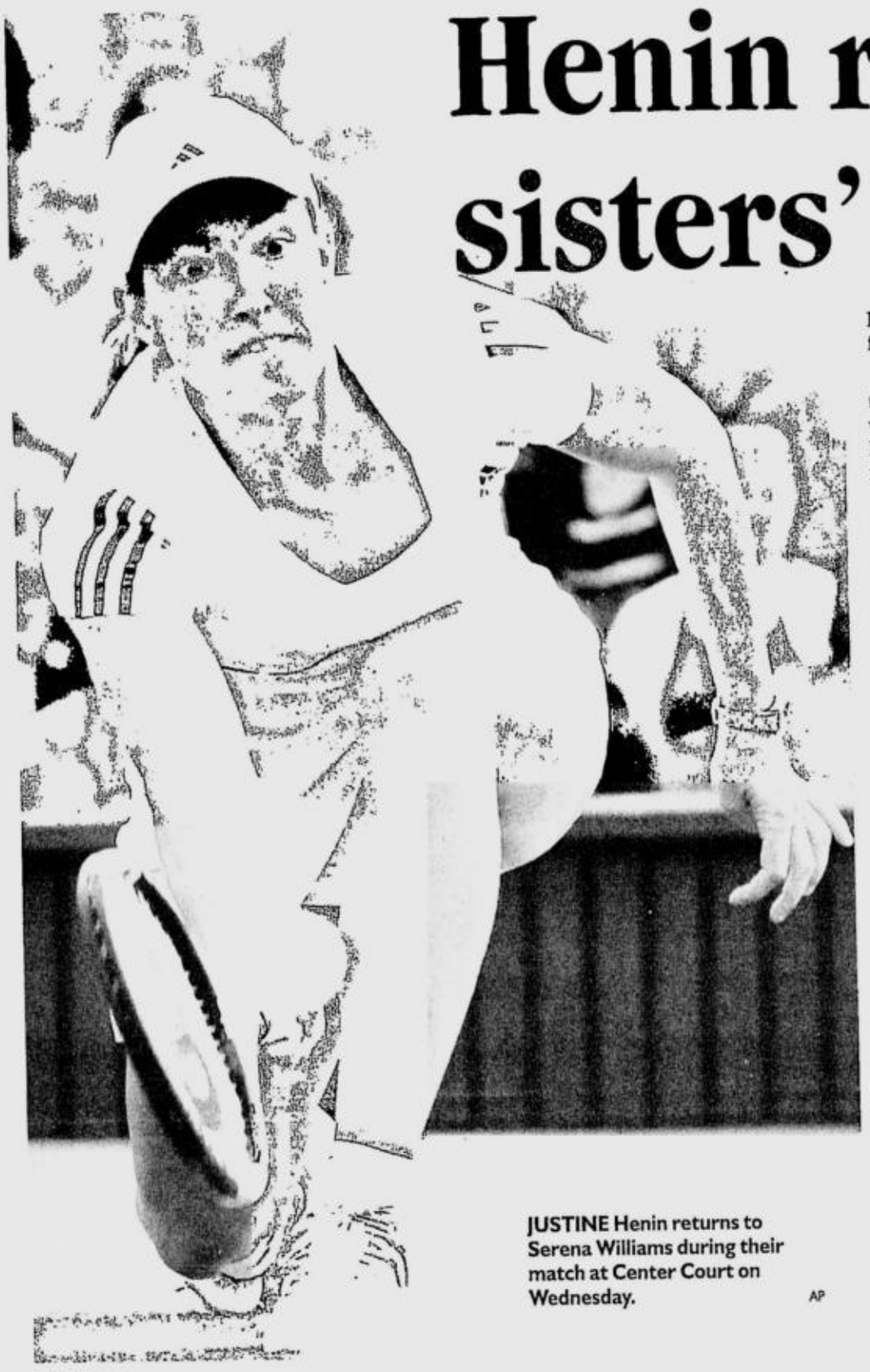
Pyeongchang, who lost out to Vancouver four years ago for the right to stage the 2010 Games by just three votes, were devastated to lose again.

"It's almost like being stabbed in the back," said a dejected bid development director Jeon Yong-kwan. "I don't get it. We did everything the IOC asked of us." Jeon suggested Sochi would find it difficult to build all the venues in the alloted time.

Salzburg, who finished third four years ago too, were equally depressed. *Reuters*

OLYMPIC champions Evgeny Plushenko (left) and Svetlana Zhurova (center) of Russia celebrate Sochi's victory. REUTERS

Henin razes Williams sisters' finals scenario



JUSTINE Henin returns to Serena Williams during their match at Center Court on Wednesday. AP

LONDON—JUSTINE HENIN WRECKED THE 4TH OF JULY FESTIVITIES for the Williams sisters at Wimbledon on Wednesday.

Venus started off the family celebrations on American Independence Day when she easily repelled second seed Maria Sharapova, 6-1, 6-3, in a fourth-round battle of former champions.

But Henin extinguished hopes of an all-Williams final by storming into the last four with a 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, win over a "40 percent fit" Serena.

While Henin managed to dodge the showers for her quarter-final clash, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic joined a growing band of players critical of the tournament's arcane scheduling.

The duo finally completed three-day marathons to reach the fourth round of a soggy Wimbledon.

In a contest that had been scheduled for Saturday, started on Monday and was hit by five rain breaks, 2006 runner-up Nadal squeezed past Sweden's Robin Soderling, 6-4, 6-4, 6-7, 4-6, 7-5.

Arms aloft, Nadal fell to his knees in relief when he clinched victory on his sixth match point, the last five coming two days after the first.

"I was here for maybe five years. I don't remember something like this... it was maybe the toughest match of my career," said Nadal, whose on court action lasted four hours.

He was annoyed that organizers did not allow play on the middle Sunday which is traditionally a rest day.

"I didn't understand why we didn't play on Sunday. The weather was okay, so much better than yesterday, Monday and today too."

Nadal will have to play every day this week if he is to reach Sunday's final.

However, if the triple French Open champion needed any inspiration to win a grand slam title outside Roland Garros, he would do well to cast his mind back to 2001 when another former Wimbledon finalist, Goran Ivanisevic, survived a three-day semi-final and went on to lift the trophy.

Fourth-seeded Serb Djokovic marked his 7-6 6-7 6-2 7-6 win over Nicolas Kiefer with a silent prayer and sign of the cross.

A misfiring backhand from Kiefer finally ended third round proceedings at 1157 GMT on Wednesday, four days behind schedule.

Ranked 31st in the world, Venus walked on Center Court as the underdog but that did not stop the American from bullying second seed and 2004 champion Sharapova into submission.

As the shell-shocked Russian swiftly exited Center Court, a grinning Williams twirled around and declared "I love you all" to the crowd. She next meets fifth seed Svetlana Kuznetsova.

Sharapova's exit meant world number one Henin was the only survivor among the women's top four seeds following the defeats of Jelena Jankovic and Amelie Mauresmo on Tuesday.

In Mauresmo's absence, Marion Bartoli continued to carry French hopes in the women's draw following a 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 triumph over Dutchwoman Michaella Krajicek.

Two days after limping and screaming her way to a fourth-round victory suffering from cramp, Serena re-emerged with her left calf tightly strapped.

The eight-times grand slam winner pulled off some spectacular winners on bended knees but could not stop Henin from stepping closer to winning the only grand slam title that eludes her. Afterwards Serena said she could hardly produce any backhands because of an injured thumb.

On a day usually reserved for men's quarterfinals, Andy Roddick also found himself lagging behind by a round but his battle with Paul-Henri Mathieu lasted only two days and he dispatched the Frenchman 6-2, 7-5, 7-6.

The third seed will next meet 12th seed Richard Gasquet. *Reuters*

VENUS Williams exults after win. AFP

Woods tries to find out how fatherhood affects his game

BETHESDA, MARYLAND—TIGER Woods and his rivals will discover how fatherhood affects the 12-time major champion when he tees off in Thursday's opening round of the inaugural six million-dollar PGA National.

In addition to being his first event since the birth of his daughter Sam Alexis last month, the showdown at Congressional Country Club is the first for Woods as host of his own PGA event, assembled on only four month's notice.

"I was practicing. It was nice to get out of the house a little bit and get some hot, muggy fresh air," Woods said.

"The course is in phenomenal shape. It's going to be one heck of a test."

The bigger test might be how fatherhood will impact world number one Woods' quest to break Jack Nicklaus' career record of 18 major titles.

The first hints will come on a tough par-70 layout two weeks before the British Open.

"It might give the rest of us a chance now," US veteran Jim Furyk said.

Others say just the opposite—beware the Tiger with a new cub to feed.

"People say when he's a dad he'll change. Yeah, he'll probably get better," US veteran Rocco Mediate said.

"It will make him play better," US long-striker Bubba Watson said. "He'll realize now that a missed show is just a missed shot."

Mickelson comeback

World number two Phil Mickelson, coming back after a left wrist injury, recalled his first PGA event after becoming a father made him more relaxed.

"After such an emotional experience, it was almost calming. You didn't feel so much nervousness on the first tee," Mickelson said.

"It was certainly different. I didn't host a tour event at the same time. There's a little more responsibility on Tiger this week."

Congressional's 7,255-yard layout includes a 602-yard ninth and a 579-yard 16th as the only par-5 holes and the water-guarded 466-yard par-4 18th. Add tight fairways and tricky rough and the event has a major feel.

"This whole thing is perfect preparation for playing the British Open," said eighth-ranked Australian veteran Geoff Ogilvy. "This is tougher than it was a few years ago."

Third-ranked Jim Furyk, fourth-rated Adam Scott of Australia and sixth-rated Vijay Singh of Fiji are also seeking the 1.08 million-dollar top prize.

Having the event in the US capital region on the US Independence Day holiday at an old-style course proved too much for most stars to resist.

"It's just a really good traditional golf course," US veteran Fred Funk said. "It carries a lot of respect for the players who have been here. Throw in July 4 and Tiger as host and everything falls into place." *AFP*

TIGER Woods: Nice to get out of house. REUTERS

Federer dusts off rackets' cobwebs

LONDON—CHAMPION ROGER FEDERER WILL have to dust the cobwebs off his racket on Thursday before returning for the first match of his Wimbledon defense in six days. While rivals were held up by rain, the top seed received a walkover against the injured Tommy Haas on Sunday and faces a quarterfinal tussle with former French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain, a recent convert to grass. Federer's potential semifinal opponent Andy Roddick, who takes on Frenchman Richard Gasquet in the day's other quarterfinal, does not think the four-time winner will be affected by the delay. *Reuters*

NBA NOTES

Magic junk Milicik

ORLANDO, FLORIDA—THE ORLANDO MAGIC HAVE withdrawn their qualifying offer to Serbian Darko Milicic, making the giant center an unrestricted free agent. The agent for the 7-footer went on to blast Orlando general manager Otis Smith saying his client never will play for the National Basketball Association team again. Milicic averaged 8.0 points and 5.5 rebounds in 23.9 minutes per game last season for the Magic, but that was not enough to convince Smith that he is worth the 10 million dollars per season he reportedly is seeking. *AFP*

Sonics sign up Durant

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON—THE SEATTLE SUPERSonics on Wednesday announced the signing of first-round draft picks Kevin Durant and Jeff Green. The Sonics made Durant the second overall pick in last Thursday's draft, and acquired the rights to fifth overall pick Green in a trade that sent Ray Allen to the Boston Celtics. Durant, 18, enters the NBA. after just one season at the University of Texas, where he averaged 25.8 points and became the first freshman in NCAA history to collect the Adolph Rupp Trophy, the Naismith Award and the Wooden Award. *AFP*

Navarro heads for NBA

BARCELONA, SPAIN—WINTERTHUR FC Barcelona has allowed star guard Juan Carlos Navarro to leave for the NBA. The 27-year-old Navarro, whose rights are owned by the Washington Wizards, could be squaring up next season against fellow Spaniards Pau Gasol of the Memphis Grizzlies, and Toronto Raptors teammates' Jose Manuel Calderon and Jorge Garbajosa. Navarro was also a member of Spain's world championship winning team that beat Greece for the title last September. *AP*

Landis innocent but will lose case—Armstrong

DENVER, COLORADO—SEVEN-TIME Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong says fellow American Floyd Landis is innocent of doping but he will lose his arbitration case, according to a newspaper report.

Landis, a former teammate of Armstrong, won the 2006 Tour de France but tested positive for a synthetic steroid during the event.

That forced Landis to go to an arbitration hearing against the US Anti-Doping Agency.

Armstrong was quoted in the Summit Daily News as saying the cards are stacked against Landis.

"I think conventional wisdom is that he will lose, because USADA has never lost a case," said Armstrong, who is the guest speaker at an Aspen Ideas Festival health forum discussion on Tuesday.

ARMSTRONG: Cards stacked vs Landis.

"The arbitrators don't ever rule for the athletes. Quite frankly the system is set up against the athletes... Unfortunately for him, I don't think he did it.

"That's always been my position and still is today, but I'm not sure that's he going to get a fair shake in this trial."

Armstrong himself is at the center of controversy again this week because of a new book by Irish journalist David Walsh, which alleges Armstrong and his teammates used creative doping methods to win his record seven Tour de France titles.

It is just the latest allegations faced by Armstrong, who has faced a stream of similar accusations during his unprecedented run in the world's most prestigious cycling race.

"I always hear about it, I always read it, and I always see it and it always makes me mad," Armstrong said.

"But you know what? I sleep every night like a baby. I know what I've been through, I know what I did and how I did it, I know the type of team I had. I believe that we were the best, and that's the thing that gives me the confidence to go forward.

"The good news there is that the people I want to affect, the people that I want to influence, they do not care. They could write a million articles—that population of people does not care." *AFP*

SPORTS

Asian Junior meet: RP wushu team captures 2 golds

THE NATIONAL WUSHU TEAM proved its mettle by clinching two gold and five silver medals in the recent 4th Asian Junior Wushu Championship in Yeongju, South Korea.

In a fitting followup to the smashing feats of their elders in the 2005 SEA Games and 2006 Doha Asian Games, Mary Stepanie Agbay and Henson John See snared a gold and silver medal each to highlight the Nationals' strong showing.

Combining speed, grace and precision, the 18 year-old Agbay reigned supreme in the taijisword to make her international campaign truly memorable. She settled for a silver medal in the taijiquan.

"There's no doubting her (Agbay) potential, and by winning against top rivals from other countries, we have something to look forward to in future international meets," said Edwin Pimentel, secretary general of the Philippine Wushu Federation.

See, a 14-year-old student at Chang Kai Shek, came up with an overpowering performance to win the gold medal in the cudgel event.

A product of the association's summer clinic, See also copped a silver medal in the broadsword.

The RP bets, who were accompanied by team manager Jocelyn Li, coaches Liu Xin Hong (for taolo) and Rexel Nganhayna (for sanshou) and judges Bernard Ong and Garry Cua, also collected two bronzes.

Also winning silvers were Steven Luis Ngo (spear and sword) and Daniel Parantac (taijisword). Winning bronze medals were Philip Delarmino (52 kg) and Honorio Banario (65 kg) in Sanshou.

"The results show that we have a strong RP junior squad," said Li. "They can be our future national team members. All they need now is more exposure and proper training."

Agbay's sister, Mary Evangeline, missed the bronze medal in the nanquan, same thing for top bet Francesca Ysabel Bernasconi and John Keithley Chan in their respective divisions.

The Philippine wushu bets dominated the 2005 Manila Games by winning 11 gold medals. They also accounted for one of the country's four gold medals in the Doha Asiad.

Bayron ousted as seeds falter at Pinehurst; Aunzo 6 off

FILIPINO JAY BAYRON FELL TO THE UN-fancied Ryan Brehm of Michigan, 3 and 2, and bowed out of the match play event in the upset-marred 107th North and South Amateur tournament Pinehurst in North Carolina on Wednesday.

Bayron, ranked No. 14 after the 36-hole eliminations, failed to get his rhythm going, trailed the 35th-ranked Brehm most of the way, and eventually dropped the match with a bogey on the 16th.

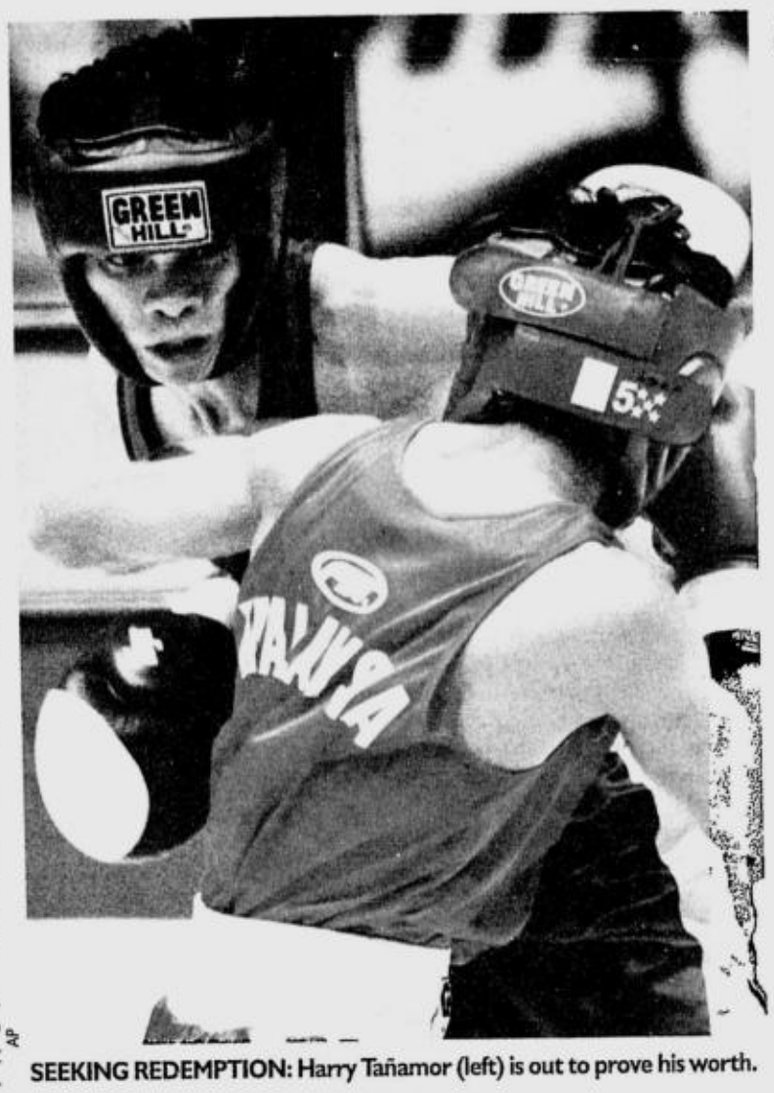
The top two seeds also fell by the wayside with low medalist Brady Schnell bowing to 64th ranked Andrew Dibitetto, 2 and 1, and second ranked Mark Sommerfeld losing to No. 63 Ryan Lefevre, 1-up, after 22 holes.

Over in Taiwan, Ferdinand Aunzo sputtered coming home for a 73 and dropped to joint sixth after the second round of the Taiwan Amateur Golf Championship at the Nan Pao Golf and Country Club on Wednesday.

Aunzo, who opened with one-under-par 71 in the first round to trail Chang Yuan-kai and Chao Hsun-ting by two strokes, slid farther back at 144, six strokes behind new leader Chan Shih-chang, who sizzled with a 68 for 138.

Chang made a 73 and dropped to third with 142, two shots behind second running Chen Ming-chun, who turned in a second straight 70. Chao skied to a 75 for a share of sixth with Aunzo and Lee Kuan-hung, who matched par 72.

Marcel Puyat, the other Filipino survivor, struggled to a 76 after a 72 and stood 10 strokes adrift at 148.



SEEKING REDEMPTION: Harry Tañamor (left) is out to prove his worth.

Tañamor heads 6-man squad in Ukraine tilt

By Dennis U. Eroa
Libre Sports Editor

LIGHT FLYWEIGHT HARRY TAÑAMOR'S quest for redemption begins when he spearheads a six-man national team seeing action in the Makar Mazai Memorial International Boxing Tournament in Makipuol, Ukraine, from July 10-16.

A two-time World Championship bronze medalist, Tañamor hogged the headlines in November last year when he was suspended for disciplinary reasons by the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines.

As a result, Tañamor failed to compete in last year's Doha Asian Games. He was replaced by rookie Godfrey Castro, who eventually won the the light flyweight division's bronze medal.

Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manny T. Lopez said the Filipinos' stint is part of the country's preparations for the World Championships scheduled in October.

The memorial tournament serves as a qualifier for the 2008 Beijing Olympics, where the country is hoping to field at least eight boxers.

"The Ukraine event will feature some of the world's best boxers," said Lopez. "This will also mark Harry's return to the international stage."

Also carrying the Philippine flag are Asiad gold medalists Violito Payla and Joan Tipon, bronze medalist Genebert Basadre, Charlie Suarez and Wilfredo Lopez.

"He's ready," national head coach Pat Gaspi said of Tañamor.

Gaspi said the fighter kept himself in tip-top shape by training with the national pool in Baguio City and at the Abap Gym at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

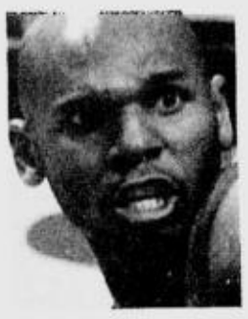
Stackhouse, Mavs dancers grace NBA Madness

NBA ALL-STAR GUARD JERRY STACKHOUSE of the Dallas Mavericks stars in the fourth leg of NBA Madness 2007 which opens today at the Center Court of the SM Mall of Asia.

The 6-foot-6 Stackhouse will be joined by five high-kicking Mavs Dancers and their dunking mascot, Mavs Man, at the NBA Madness celebrations from July 6 to 8. Fans will also have the opportunity to see the Larry O'Brien NBA Championship Trophy up close as part of the DHL-NBA Trophy Tour.

Stackhouse will interact with fans and participate in on-court basketball competitions. He will also conduct a basketball skills training demonstration and share tips and insights on what it takes to be a successful player.

NBA Madness tipped off at the SM City San Lazaro on June 15. Now on its sixth year, the fan-oriented event will visit six malls in Metro Manila: SM City San Lazaro, The Block, SM North Edsa (June 22 to 24), SM Southmall Las Piñas (June 29 to July 1), SM Mall of Asia (July 6 to 8), SM City Fairview (July 13 to 15) and SM Megamall (July 20 to 22).


STACKHOUSE

Sy opens posh Mall of Asia bowling center

THE COUNTRY'S MOST MODERN bowling center featuring 32 state-of-the-art lanes opened recently at the Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

SM Supermalls founder and chair Henry Sy Sr. led the launch of the leisure center situated on the ground level of the vast shopping center.

Apart from the bowling lanes, the center also has nine imported billiard tables, according to SM Leisure Center vice president Ric Camaligan.

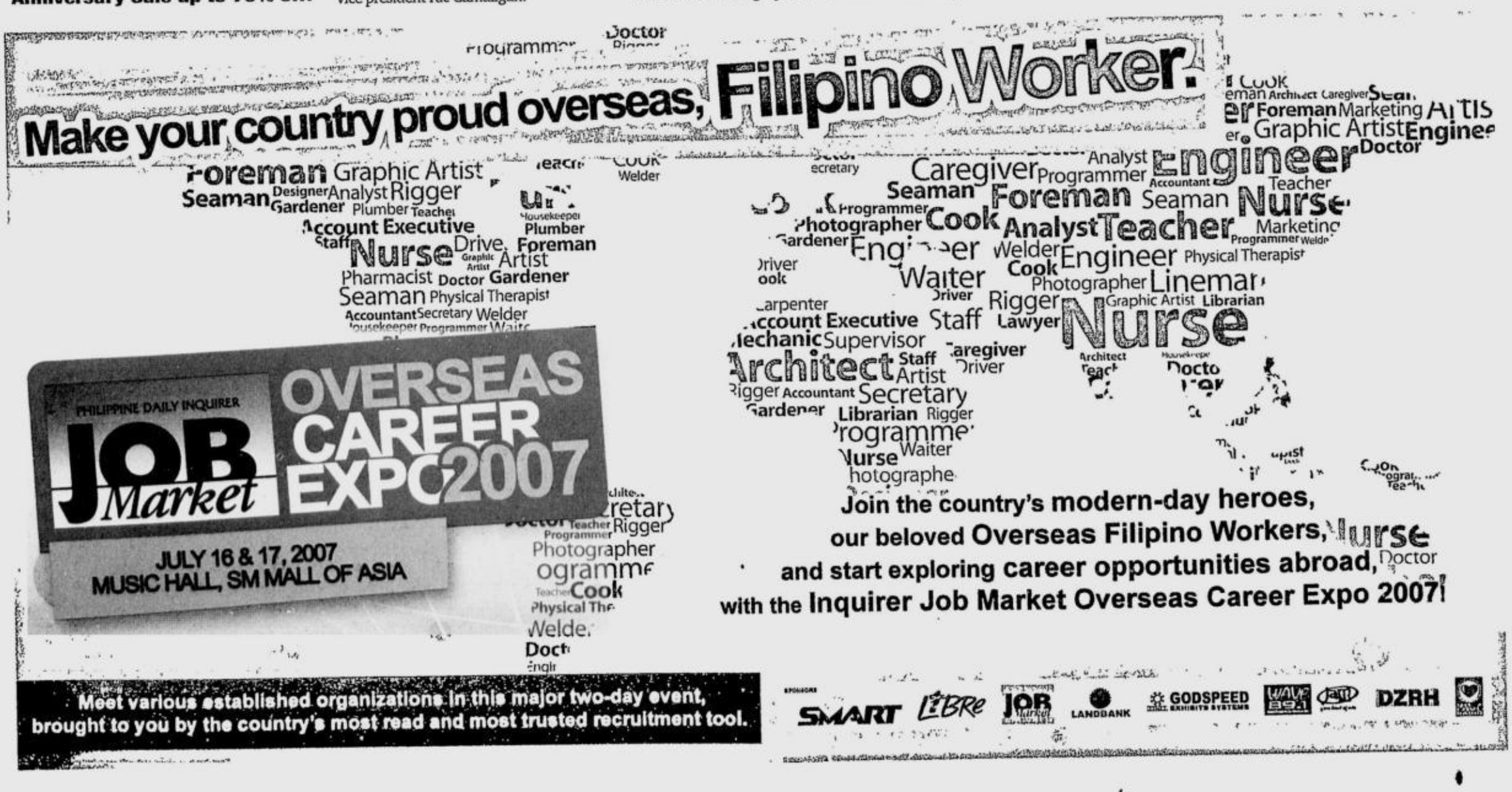
BUSINESS tycoon Henry Sy (third from left) leads the maiden roll-off.

The bowling center uses technology developed by Puyat Sports and Italy's Cubica company. Scores are displayed digitally on plasma screens.

SM Prime Holdings president Hans Sy and his wife Felicidad, as well as Steve Hontiveros, president of the Philippine Bowling Congress, joined the SM founder during the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

WBO championship weigh-in

THE OFFICIAL WEIGH-IN FOR TOMORROW'S DUAL WBO Asia-Pacific championship takes place today starting at 11 a.m. at the Watefront Cebu City Hotel. Promoter Sammy Gello-ani said protagonists will meet for the first time and get to size up each other in a special weigh-in at the Tin-Gow Private Room of the Waterfront Hotel. In the main event, South Korea's Yong Sung Kim defends his WBO Asia Pacific junior welterweight title against Kongtoranee Por Surasak. Kim is best remembered for being the first fighter to beat RP junior welter champ Mark Jason Melligen in their recent fight in Korea. The co-feature will showcase WBO Asia Pacific minimum weight champion Donnie Nietes against Thai Saenpetch Sor Sakulphan. A 12-rounder takes place when ALA Boy Rocky Fuentes fights Wakee Salud protege Benedict Suico. Judith Subingsubing, Cebu's first professional woman fighter, takes on South Korea's Bo Young Kim in a four-round bout. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*



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Inflation slowed down to 2.3% in June

By Michelle V. Remo

THE ABSENCE OF DISRUPTIONS to food supply and the strengthening of the peso had helped in slowing down the rise of consumer prices, which settled at a slightly slower rate of 2.3 percent in June from the previous month's 2.4 percent.

This brought the average inflation for the first six months of the year to only 2.6 percent. The government has set a target of limiting inflation to an average of 4 or 5 percent for the entire year.

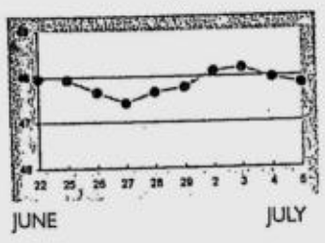
The inflation figure is expected to ease pressure on the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to tighten monetary policy.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that commodities falling under fuel, light and water (FLW), as well as clothing, registered a slight increase in prices, with their annual rates only rising 3.8 percent and

INFLATION/ B6

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱46.17 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 5, 2007

Shares hit record high

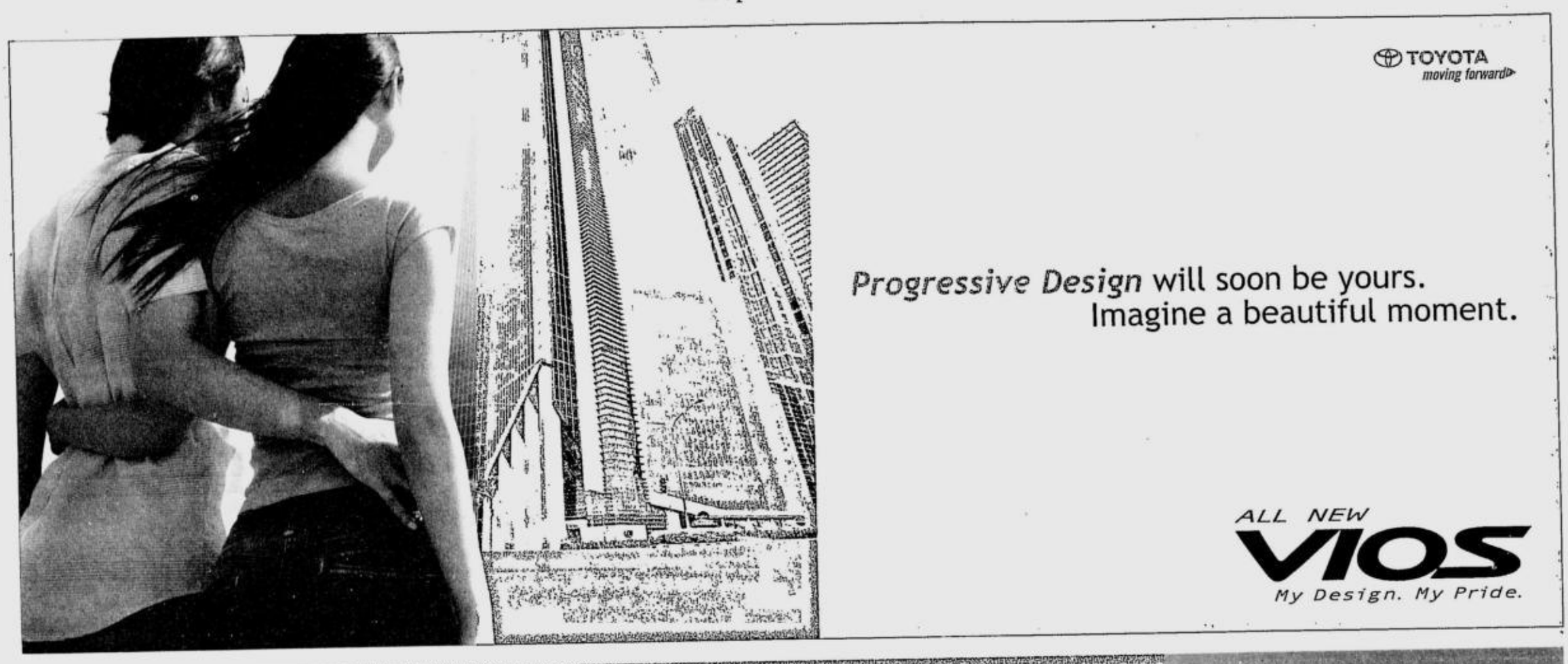
SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY rose 1.89 percent for another record finish as investors welcome another set of benign inflation figures *(see banner story)*, dealers said.

The composite index jumped 70.66 points to finish at the

SHARES/ B6

IN THIS ISSUE

GMA orders intensified campaign vs oil smugglers /B2



Insular Life star agents discover Taipei and Beijing.

Yeh Liu Geopark is a popular tourist destination. The park known for its uniquely-shaped limestone rocks that have en formed by erosion, harsh weather, strong waves, and y wind over millions of years.

VP and Head of Sales Mrs. Marietta Gorrez joins the Taipei Convention delegates for a souvenir photo beside the portrait Chiang Kai-Shek, president of the Republic of China from 948 to 1975.

Becoming a top Insular Life sales agent can be your ticket to the world's most exotic travel destinations. In 2006 the best performers were sent on exposure trips to Rome and Vietnam. This year Insular Life's most outstanding agents and their families visited vibrant Taipei and historic Beijing.

Constant rains failed to dampen the spirits of the 62 delegates who enjoyed the unique culture and sights of Taipei during the Taipei Trippin' convention this year.

The Insular Life agents were awed at the limestone formations in Yeh Liu Geopark, learned about Chinese history and culture at the National Palace Museum and the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall, and went shopping at the Shimending Market and Shilin Night Market.

The group also got a close look at the towering Taipei 101 building, the tallest in the world.

Another batch of star performers also ventured to Beijing, China. Forty-one delegates toured the vast Tiananmen Square, marveled at the China's cultural glory in the Forbidden City, and relaxed in the serenity and beauty of the Summer Palace.

They also visited China's most famous icon, the breathtaking Great Wall of China. The Beijing Night Show also afforded the delegates a glimpse of China's rich performing arts traditions.

It's been a tradition in Insular Life to reward the top sales producers with travel opportunities such as these. The coming years will only bring more chances to roam the world for Insular Life's most dedicated sales people.

The Insular Life star agents at the Summer Palace lagoon with Insular Life Chairman of the Board and CEO Vicente R. Ayllon.

Convention delegates with Mr. Ayllon and Mr. Ongsingco conquer the Great Wall of China.

A group shot with Insular Life President and COO Mayo Jose B. Ongsingco and Mrs. Marietta C. Gorrez at one of China's great historical and political landmarks - Tiananmen Square.

The cultural show at the famous Beijing Night Show.

INSULAR LIFE

GMA orders intensified campaign vs oil smugglers

BOC directed to tighten watch on ports of entry

By Michelle V. Remo

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO has ordered the Bureau of Customs to intensify its antismuggling efforts amid suspicions that oil imports were entering the country without payment of proper duties.

The President's directive followed reports that the BOC, the second biggest revenue earner for the government following the Bureau of Internal Revenue, fell short of its tax and duty collection target of P105.3 billion in the first semester by P13 billion.

In a meeting the other day between Arroyo and officials from the Department of Finance, the BIR and the BOC, the country's chief executive asked revenue authorities to explain the shortfall in revenue in the first half.

According to an official from the DOF, mother agency of the BIR and the BOC, customs representatives cited the decline in imports, especially of oil, as one of the main reasons for the lower-than-programmed collection by the BOC.

Latest data from the National Statistics Office (NSO) show that merchandise imports fell by 1.8 percent to $4.34 billion April from a year ago. Of the amount, imported mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials accounted for $930 million.

But the DOF official said the President did not buy low imports as an excuse for the shortfall in tax collection.

The President even said it was impossible for imports to have dropped when the economy was growing robustly, according to the source.

An increase in economic activity normally results in an increase in demand for oil and electric power.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the BOC had been advised to tighten its monitoring of goods that enter through the country's ports to guard against smuggling activities.

The BOC and the BIR are under pressure to find ways to shore up collection given their dismal performance so far.

In a recent meeting, officials of the Development Budget Coordination Committee presented three scenarios of how the government's full-year fiscal condition would turn out.

The best scenario shows the government falling short of its full-year target of P1.119 trillion in tax and nontax revenues by P25 billion.

The source said the worst scenario showed the BIR and BOC performing even worse than in the first half, when the main revenue agencies were estimated to have posted a combined revenue-collection shortfall of P53 billion.

But the President did not accept the scenarios, insisting that the government should meet its revenue collection targets for 2007.

Of the P1.119-trillion revenue collection goal for the year, the BIR is supposed to collect P765 billion and the BOC contributing P228 billion.

The balance is expected to come from other sources of revenues, such as privatization proceeds and dividends of the national government from state-owned firms.

The revenue collection target is in line with the goal of reducing the budget deficit to only P63 billion this year from last year's P64.8 billion.

In a statement released yesterday, Teves said his office would stick to revenue and deficit-reduction targets for the year despite slippage in the first half.

The finance chief said the government would beef up efforts to privatize big-ticket items to catch up with the targets. State-owned assets targeted to be privatized this year include shares in San Miguel Corp., Manila Electric Co. and Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp.

Should the government succeed in selling all three, then the proceeds would be more than enough to compensate for the tax collection shortfall in the first half.

The government expects to collect P50 billion from the sale of its SMC shares, another P50 billion from the privatization of the PNOC-EDC shares, and another P11 billion from the sale of Meralco shares.

Franchising is key to development, Mahathir says

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE FRANCHISING INDUSTRY COULD prove to be a key link in the development of countries, given the right combination of private sector push and government support, a son of former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad yesterday said.

Mukhriz Mahathir, who represented his country in the 15th Philippine International Franchise Conference held at the Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati City, said this was why Malaysia was committed to be seen and regarded as a "franchise-friendly nation."

Mukhriz, chair of the nongovernment organization Malaysian Franchise Association, said in an interview that the lack of government support made franchising or any business venture a greater ordeal than it already was, which is why Kuala Lumpur had laid down from the start policies to promote the sector.

The third son and fifth child of the former Malaysian Premier, the 42-year-old Mukhriz has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Sophia University in Japan and a graduate degree in marketing from Boston University in the United States.

"While franchising offers less risk compared to other kinds of businesses, it is still a difficult struggle for the kind of entrepreneurs who engaged in it—those with young businesses or who are first-time business operators," he said. "That is why we have the kind of support programs that we have."

"In the Malaysian experience, the government looks at franchising as a way to increase the size of the middle class, a means of doing away with economic disparities," he added.

"For countries like Malaysia and the Philippines, franchising is an effective way to promote economic development," he said.

Malaysia established its Franchise Development Program in 1992, roughly the same time as when franchising was beginning to be an institution in the Philippines through private sector efforts like the international conference and exposition.

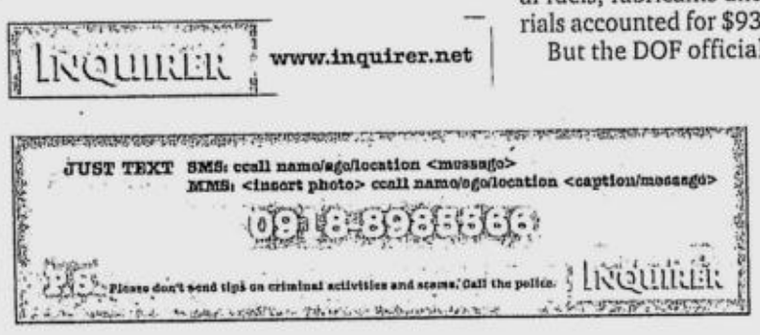
Kuala Lumpur followed up with the creation of a Franchise and Vendor Division Department in 1995, which is now under the Ministry of Entrepreneur and Cooperative Development.

Still, franchising was given an even more solid push when the Franchise Act—a trailblazing law—took effect in 1998, which Mukhriz said provided "certainty in law to effectively govern the industry."

Mukhriz joined the call for cooperation among the franchising sectors in Southeast Asia to promote regional economic integration toward overall economic development.

"The development of a franchise system not only involves research and development but also business re-engineering," he said.

"Also, through the transfer of 'technical expertise' in a franchise business, much is to be gained from local franchisees and indirectly, the host country," he added.



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Bond Fund - Peso	1.60157	1.60807
Managed Fund - Peso	1.91394	1.90822
Growth Fund - Peso	1.99099	1.94436
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.3768	1.3762

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

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When plans remain just plans

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

WE HAVE HEARD OF KNEE-JERK REACTIONS, and how being proactive is far superior to being reactive. We have also heard that, specially in the agriculture and fisheries areas, Filipinos are good at talking, but not so good at doing.

Just look at the excellent training done in the Philippines at institutes like UP Los Baños, and notice how countries like Taiwan and Thailand have translated this training into productive agriculture enterprises that contributed to an agricultural growth much faster than ours.

All this because we do not "walk our talk." But even before we "walk," the "talk" should be right. This is where planning comes in.

As my former professor, management expert Peter Drucker, once told me, "More important than doing things right, is doing the right things."

Background

Almost three years ago, on Aug. 23, 2004, Director Malcom Sarmiento of the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Fisheries Aquatic Resources (BFAR) led the "Fisheries Resource Management Project" (FRMP) Policy Forum and Action Planning on the Municipal Fisheries Agenda.

With foreign funding from the Asian Development Bank, Dr. Florangel Braid, president of the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication, ably coordinated the discussions.

During this forum, small fisherfolk leaders led, among others, by Charles Capricho, president of Pambansang Alyansa ng mga Mangingisda at Pamunuan ng Organisasyon (Pampano), asked if there was a fisheries master plan. The answer was negative.

Capricho asked for such a plan, so that the municipal fisherfolk, who comprise 95 percent of the fisherfolk sector, would get the appropriate share of resources and attention from the government.

It was also proposed that on Feb. 14, 2005, DA would give, as its Valentine gift to the neglected municipal fishers, this master plan. It would address growth, development, poverty alleviation, and environmental degradation.

Status

The Valentine's Day gift was delayed for more than a year, as it was only in June 2006 when a "Comprehensive National Fisheries Industry Development Plan" (CNFIDP): 2006-2025" was completed. However, it has not yet been approved. The plan remains a plan.

The table (at right) identifies the five key issues facing municipal fishers. Eight priority projects to address these issues have been formulated over two years by government and fisherfolk leaders. They target 24 priority areas over a five-year period. Implementing the program will cost P1.7 billion, or approximately P340 million a year.

I have summarized this from the Municipal Fisheries Component of the CNFIDP, which was spearheaded by the Tambuyog Development Foundation.

MUNICIPAL FISHERIES PROGRAM

ISSUE	PROJECT	AMOUNT
A. Depleted fishery resources	1. "Rationalization of Municipal Fishing Effort"	P70 M
B. Degraded fishery habitats	2. "Rehabilitation and Regeneration of Coastland and Inland Ecosystems"	P180 M
	3. "Enhancement of Locally Managed Marine Areas"	P120 M
C. Intensified resource use competition	4. "Validation of Priority Use Rights through Municipal Registration and Licensing"	P300 M
	5. "Sustainable Fisheries Livelihood Support" P550 M	
D. Post-harvest losses	6. "Infrastructure and Post-harvest Facilities Development for Municipal Fisheries"	P80 M
E. Limited institutional capabilities	7. "Comprehensive Education Program for Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Council (FARMC) and Fisherfolk Organizations"	P210 M
	8. "Enhancement of Fishery Law Enforcement"	P190 M

Project descriptions

The projects include:

1. Harvesting of wild species within the productive capacities of the existing resources;
2. Rehabilitating coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds and selected inland habitats;
3. Improving fish sanctuaries and marine refugee areas;
4. Institutionalizing a system that protects the preferential rights of municipal fishers over coastal and marine resources;
5. Increasing incomes through resource and non-resource based livelihood schemes, focusing on production, processing, marketing, and enterprise development;
6. Establishing adequate infrastructure facilities to minimize post-harvest losses, including the setting up of village level cold storage facilities and small-scale fish landing centers;
7. Implementing training programs for FARMC and small-scale fisheries associations, including the management of cooperatives;
8. Integrating key stakeholder efforts to reduce illegal and destructive fishing practices, including the progressive up-scaling and coordination of Bantay Dagat efforts up to the fishing ground level.

COMMENTARY

Conclusion

Another common expression is "Put your money where your mouth is." Or else the plans will remain just plans.

Since it is Congress that has the power to put the taxpayers' money to good use, it is hoped that our newly elected representatives support DA Secretary Arthur Yap and Director Sarmiento in their budget proposals that are consistent with the CNFIDP.

For DA officials, it is recommended that they approve their improved CNFIDP before the congressional budget deliberations. This way, Congress will fund a specific proactive development plan that will not only do things right, but more importantly, will do the right things.

(The author is the chair of Agriwatch, former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for agriculture, and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil @ yahoo.com or telefax (02) 8522112).

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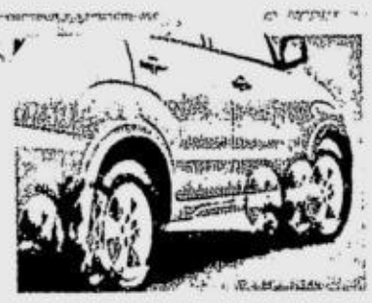

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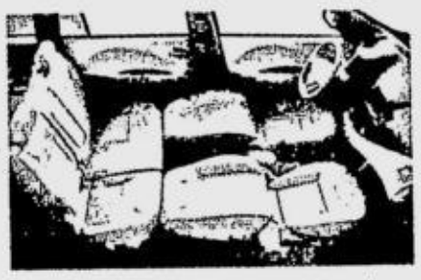

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Possible drop in tax effort worries gov't

BIR, BOC shortfall in '07 should not exceed ₱60B, says DBCC

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEVELOPMENT BUDGET COORDINATION Committee (DBCC) has warned that the combined collection shortfall of the Bureaus of Internal Revenue and Customs this year should not go beyond P60 billion, as this would result in the deterioration of the country's tax effort.

The DBCC, an interagency body tasked with setting the government's economic and fiscal targets, said the international financial community had been closely monitoring the country's tax effort, a basis for setting credit ratings and outlook.

In a paper submitted to President Macapagal-Arroyo, the DBCC said it was crucial for the country to keep its tax effort level this year at the same as, if not better than, last year's 14.3 percent. A revenue collection shortfall of more than P60 billion would result in a decline in tax effort to a level lower than year-ago, the DBCC said.

Tax effort, a measure of the government's ability to collect more taxes as the economy grows, is the ratio between revenue collections by the BIR and the BOC, and the countriy's gross domestic product (GDP).

The 14.3-percent tax effort last year was an improvement from only 12.7 percent in 2005. This was one of the highlights of the Arroyo administration's fiscal achievements for 2006 that encouraged major credit-rating firms to give a positive outlook on the Philippines.

A positive outlook means the country was likely to get an upgrade in its credit ratings. The country's ratings with major ratings agencies are all several notches below investment grade.

The ability of the government to sustain its fiscal gains last year, however, has been put to question amid the huge collection shortfalls by the two major revenue earners for the government.

Preliminary figures showed that the BIR was P40-billion short of its P373.3-billion target for the first half, while the BOC was short by P13 billion from its P105.3-billion goal for the first six months.

The BIR and the BOC's combined shortfall as of the first half stood at P53 billion.

The DBCC said the BIR and the BOC should intensify efforts in shoring up revenue collection, including administrative means to plug leakages from smuggling and tax evasion.

The DBCC is composed of the Department of Finance (mother agency of the BIR and the BOC), the Department of Budget and Management and the National Economic and Development Authority, with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas conducting an advisory role.

The BIR and BOC were earlier directed to come up with ways to meet their full-year targets despite the shortfall in the first half.

The collection targets assigned to the BIR and the BOC were in line with the government's goal of reducing the budget deficit to P63 billion this year from last year's P64.8 billion.

PLDT to offer mobile products of Inmarsat

By Riza T. Olchondra

PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE Co. will offer mobile products from global satellite leader Inmarsat plc, PLDT chair Manuel Pangilinan told the INQUIRER.

Inmarsat is launching handheld, fixed and maritime mobile phones that use satellite connections to call anywhere in the world. "We (PLDT and Aces Philippines) are their partners in the Philippines," Pangilinan said.

PLDT will distribute the products through its satellite unit, Aces, which offers Smart Link Satellite Payphone for ships at sea. The phone giant is also helping Inmarsat put up a ground station to facilitate connections to its worldwide satellite network and to Aces' Garuda 1 Satellite for Asia.

"Aces Philippines is strong in maritime satellite phone services. New satellite mobile products and services will expand its range," PLDT spokesperson Ramon Isberto said in a separate interview.

Aside from Aces Philippines, Inmarsat's other global partners are Chinasat, Evosat, Fono, MCN, MVS, SatCom Global and Stratos.

Inmarsat president and COO Michael Butler told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that the products would be launched in Asia, the Middle East, and Africa this year. They will be introduced to the rest of the world by the end of 2008.

Butler said the partners' wide geographic reach and long market experience will help ensure that the entailing services will be delivered "in a very powerful way."

Inmarsat has been providing reliable voice and high-speed data communications to governments, enterprises and other organizations since 1979. It has a range of mobile services that can be used on land, at sea, or in the air.

Peza OKs rules governing agri ecozones

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE Authority has approved the guidelines for the creation of agro-industrial zones, a move aimed at supporting the biofuels industry, Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said yesterday.

Favila said locators in agro ecozones would be able to avail themselves of incentives provided under the Special Economic Zone Act, including income tax holidays.

"Our objective is to open the opportunities for farmers to increase their income and help them gain access to modern farming technology," he explained.

According to Peza director general Lilia B. De Lima, these ecozones would serve as locations for agro-industrial-based enterprises and would promote linkages through the production of high value added and better-quality agricultural and marine products geared for the export market.

De Lima said that to qualify as an agro ecozone, a project intended for purposes other than biofuel production must have an area of at least five hectares.

She said agro-industrial activities eligible for Peza registration must be involved in import-substituting commercial production and processing of agricultural crops for biofuel like coconut, jathropha, sugar cane, cassava, corn and sweet sorghum.

Such crops need huge tracts of land of at least 3,000 hectares, De Lima said.

Other qualified activities include processing or manufacturing for export of agricultural and marine products such as livestock and poultry, fruits and vegetables, aquaculture products; integrated livestock, poultry and related projects involving primary production up to processing and export of final product; production of agricultural inputs such as feeds, veterinary drugs and vaccine, fertilizers, and agri-chemicals for export; projects involving the processing of agricultural waste materials into commercially viable product for export; and biotechnology products using agricultural products as inputs or to be used as inputs for agricultural production.

De Lima said all applications for Peza registration of proposed agro-ecozones must be endorsed by the Department of Agriculture.

Apex plans to expand mining operations

By Amy R. Remo

APEX MINING CO. PLANS TO RAISE mining production in Compostela Valley by expanding its operations.

The company intends to increase its output this year to as much as 3,000 dry metric tons of ore a day from the current 500 tons. The plan, however, is hinged on its ability to obtain an environment compliance certificate soon.

Rogel C. Cabauatan, environmental manager of Apex, told reporters that Apex was planning to expand its mining area from the current 500 hectares to cover the entire 2,300-hectare mineable area in Masara, Maco in Compostela Valley.

"Through a certificate of noncoverage, Apex was allowed to operate in the Masara mine with a minimal production even without an ECC. This is an old mine which had shut down years before and had begun commercial operations in December 2005, almost a year after it was acquired by Crew Gold," said Cabauatan.

Crew Gold Corp. holds a 72-percent stake in Apex.

He said the company had submitted all the requirements for expansion, which included an environmental impact assessment.

To further expand its mining operations, Apex had earlier participated in the bidding for North Davao Mining Corp., which was reported to have huge gold reserves.

Cabauatan said Apex was in a position to bid for the old mining company given the proximity of its processing plant to the area of NDMC.

He said Apex was also eyeing sites in South Cotabato but no exploration had been done yet in the area.

Aside from gold, Apex was also planning to venture into nickel mining given the metal's high prices and possible lucrative markets.

The company was looking for nickel sites in Mindoro, where Crew Gold has key projects including a development-stage nickel-cobalt site.

GOINGS-ON

Most responsive bank

FOR THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW, PHILIPPINE National Bank received from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) a trophy as the "Best Commercial Bank Respondent" on overseas Filipino remittance during the recent 2007 BSP Stakeholders' Awarding Ceremonies held.

PNB is the only commercial bank to receive this award for three consecutive years.

PNB president Omar Byron Mier said the award was in recognition of PNB's comprehensive understanding of what the overseas Filipino workers need from the bank. He cited, for example, that PNB was also the only Filipino commercial bank that can now offer dollar denominated mutual funds to OFWs. The bank entered into a tie-up with ING last month to market the ING Filipino Mutual Fund to Filipinos overseas using PNB's 107 worldwide remittance outlets.

GSPI's customer care cell

GLOBAL STEEL PHILIPPINES INC., THE COUNtry's biggest steel manufacturer, announced the formation of a customer care cell at its Manila marketing office.

The cell will be responsible for anticipating and satisfying domestic customer requirements for the company's flat rolled products.

The task of this cell includes, speedy response to quotations, contract reviews, resolve differences between contract and other requirements/clarification of customer requirements, negotiate and minimize schedule changes, plan and schedule production orders and shipping logistics, pricing supply chain processing, system support, technical and commercial documentation. It will also post an industry commodity expert to interact with the Bureau of Customs on a daily basis to help check technical smuggling of flat products for the benefit of the company's valued customers.

Pilferage stalls Transco power lines rehabilitation in Bicol

By Abigail L. Ho

SUSPECTED ARMED SYNDICATES STEAL transmission lines in the Bicol Region, stalling rehabilitation works being done by National Transmission Corp. and dashing hopes of speedily replacing damaged lines before the start of the typhoon season.

"Our transmission lines are being stolen by lawless elements as quickly as we can replace them. The typhoon season is fast approaching and unless these criminal acts are stopped, the Bicol region will suffer again and again," Transco president Arthur Aguilar said.

Aguilar said Transco personnel involved in the restoration works were getting frustrated, as instead of moving on to their next repair assignments, they constantly had to go back to line segments that had already been restored but were stolen.

Community residents had reported to Transco sightings of armed men in the vicinity of the lines that had been stolen.

The thefts usually occur in steel towers and transmission lines located in remote and mountainous areas.

In Tiwi, Albay, some 9.6 kilometers of transmission lines were stolen. In the towns of Malinao and Ligao, a total of 7.3 kilometers of lines were also lost to thieves.

"Pilferers are becoming bolder, targeting even an energized line. They disregard the possibility that they could get electrocuted or seriously injured while pilfering energized transmission lines," Aguilar said.

FPI wants cement tariff kept at 5%

THE FEDERATION OF PHILIPPINE INDUSTries said local industries, particularly those that create jobs, deserve a business climate that provides level playing field for them to compete and grow.

Domestic industries, said FPI chair Meneleo Carlos Jr., felt vulnerable because of a recommendation by the technical unit of the Committee on Tariffs and Related Matters to reduce to zero the already low tariff on imported cement.

"Under globalization, foreign competitors are supposed to be let in, to force inefficient local industries to shape up," said Carlos. "But the government itself acknowledges that the local cement industry is efficient and modern."

This creates uncertainties for other industries because even their efficiency would not be favored by trade policy, he said.

He preferred keeping the existing tariff at 5 percent although this was deemed low when compared to the import tariffs in cement-producing Asian countries such as Malaysia (50 percent) and Vietnam (40 percent).

"The tariff of 5 percent is already more than enough to encourage entry of imported cement," he said. "By letting imports in for free is like giving away the Philippine market to foreigners, not to count the foregone tariff collections."

Carlos reminded policymakers that they themselves set this tariff rate so that imports would come in and challenge local manufacturers.

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5282 / 5288

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID / REBID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

Bid Tender 1:

Various Sizes of Quick Connect Pipes and Fittings	Approved Budget
under FGA 71902	PHP 3,999,000.00
under FGA 71926	PHP 1,862,000.00
under FGO 70201	PHP 7,569,000.00
under FGO 70211	PHP 17,748,000.00
under FGT 72242	PHP 4,240,000.00
under FGT 72276	PHP 3,872,000.00
under FGX 62202	PHP 3,925,000.00

Bid Tender 2:

Various Sizes of Expanding Gate Valves	Approved Budget
under FGT 64555 / FGH 74001 / 02 / FGA 71926	PHP 6,535,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance upon payment of a non-refundable fee at the above address based on the following schedules:

Bid Tender No.	PR No.	Date of Issue	Cost per Document	Contact Person
1	FGA 71902 / 26 / FGO 70201 / 11 / FGT 72242 / 76 / FGX 62202	July 6, 2007	PHP 2,000.00	Ms. Ma. Cristina Lynn M. Mercado loc. 5282
2	FGT 64555 / FGH 74001 / 02 / FGO 70203	July 6, 2007	PHP 2,000.00	Mr. Arvin Jose A. Gomez loc 5288

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall also be held on July 13, 2007, for bid tender no. 1 and bid tender no. 2, 2:00 p.m. at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than 2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Department Wall Clock Time) of July 25, 2007 for bid tender no. 1 and bid tender no. 2. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–July 6, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
City of Himamaylan
Province of Negros Occidental

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Date: July 6, 2007
Contract ID No.: SP-074-IN-01 and 04
World Bank Loan No: 4446 PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Local Government Finance and Development and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the *Construction of School Buildings (Contract Packages 01 and 04)* Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*
2. The *City of Himamaylan, Negros Occidental* invites sealed bids from eligible sources for the *Construction of School Buildings for the following packages:*

PACKAGE 01
1-Unit 2 cl 1-storey school building:
Carabalan National High School, Brgy. Carabalan

6-Units 3 cl 1-storey school building:
Cabadiangan Elementary School, Brgy. Cabadiangan
Cabanbanan Elementary School, Brgy. Cabanbanan
Carabalan Elementary School, Brgy. Carabalan
Culban Elementary School, Brgy. Carabalan
San Jose Elementary School, Brgy. Libacao
HNHS Libacao Ext., Brgy. Libacao

3-Units water tanks
Carabalan Nat'l. High School, Brgy. Carabalan
San Jose Elementary School, Brgy. Libacao
HNHS Libacao Ext., Brgy. Libacao

PACKAGE 04
2-Units 8 cl 2-storey school building
Himamaylan Nat'l. High School, Brgy. III

1-Unit 6 cl 2-storey school building
Paaralang Sentral ng Himamaylan, Brgy. I

1-Unit 4 cl 1-storey school building
Doña Julieta M. Gatuslao Elem. School, Brgy. Caradio-an

1-Unit water tank
Himamaylan National High School, Brgy. III

3. Bidding documents may be purchased starting *July 6 - August 7, 2007 during office hours at the BAC Office, City of Himamaylan, Negros Occidental* upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00) for each Contract Package (Package 01 and 04)* or its equivalent in a freely-convertible currency, for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of *ninety (90) days* after bid opening and must be accompanied by the bid securities for the following Contract Packages

Package 01 - Three Hundred Eighty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Pesos (Php 383,900.00)
Package 04 - Five Hundred Fifty Five Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 555,500.00)

in a form of cash, certified check, bank guarantee or its equivalent in a convertible currency and shall be delivered to the *BAC Office, City of Himamaylan, Negros Occidental on or before August 7 at 10:00 A.M.* at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend

5. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid (LCRB) who was determined as such during post qualification. **The Estimated project Cost** for the subproject is
   - **Package 1** - Fifteen Million Three Hundred Fifty Five Thousand Eighty Pesos and 95/100 (Php 15,355,080.95).
   - **Package 2** - Twenty Two Million Two Hundred Eighteen Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Two Pesos and 17/100 (Php 22,218,762.17)
6. A pre-bid conference will be held on *July 24, 2007; 10:00 A.M. at the ABC Hall, City of Himamaylan Negros Occidental.*

(Sgd.) VICENTE T. GENOVA
BAC Chairman

(PDI–July 6, 2007)

CALBAYOG CITY WATER DISTRICT
J.D. Avelino St., Calbayog City
Western Samar

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Calbayog City Water District, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites qualified suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid the following items.

Item No.	Particulars	Quantity
Lot-I	Replacement Piece ½"Ø, ISO, Pack joint Compression type	500 pcs.
	Replacement Piece 1"Ø, Brass, ISO	100 pcs.
	Stop Cock, 1"Ø, Brass ISO	30 pcs.
Lot-II	HDPE tubing, ½"Ø x 300 meters, ISO, SDR-II Blue Color	15 rolls
	uPVC Pipe, 75mmØ x 6m lc., C100, S10	105 lc.
	Dresses Coupling, 75mmØ, CI, C150	1 pc.
	uPVC Pipe 10"Ø, PN 365 for unplasticized Polyvinyl chloride, Series 8 (PN 1.03 Mpa), Electrometic rings shall conform w/ PNS 1008/ISO 4633	10 lc.
Lot-III	Water Meter, ½"Ø, Brass, complete w/ 2 pcs. Coupling gasket, 2 pcs. Tail piece and 2 pcs. Coupling nut.	500 pcs.
Lot-IV	Computer specs. 3.1GHz Intel Pentium Core2 Duo, 128 Mb Video Memory, 80 GB Harddisk, 512 Mb DDR2, DVD Combo Drive, 15" LCD Monitor, LAN 10/100 Mbps, Optical Mouse w/ standard accessories, Windows XP Professional.	1 set
	Palm Tungsten E2	3 pcs.

Above materials and equipment are intended for the installation of new service connection, rehabilitation, maintenance purposes and computerization of billing and collection system of the Calbayog City Water District.

The Schedule of BAC activities:

BAC Activities	Venue	Date
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	CCWD, JD. Avelino St. Calbayog City	July 9, 2007
2. Submission of Eligibility Requirements, specifications and Bid proposals/documents	-do-	July 20, 2007
3. Opening of Bids (includes eligibility Check)	-do-	July 27, 2007

The Bidders shall mail or drop their eligibility requirements, specification and Bid proposal in a sealed envelopes addressed to the BAC Chairman, Calbayog City Water District, J.D., Avelino St., Calbayog City, Samar. For more information, please call the Procurement/BAC Section, Tel. Nos. 055-2091843; 2091183.

The CCWD-BAC, reserves the right to accept or reject all bids any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder/s.

(Sgd.) EDITHA C. YRIGAN
BAC Chairman

Noted:

(Sgd.) ARNULFO W. BANZON
General Manager

(PDI - July 6, 2007)

51st Anniversary

PHILIPPINES INTERNATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY INCORPORATED

Philinterlife (since 1956)

Messages

Department of Finance Insurance Commission

It is with pleasure that I greet the PHILIPPINES INTERNATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO., INC. on its 51st Founding Anniversary.

Today, this enterprising life insurance company celebrates its "new beginning" after having hurdled trials and difficulties. I congratulate its management for steering the company towards stability, and the faithful staff who have shown commitment to honest service towards its insureds.

Despite the challenges, the prestige and good name of the Philippines International Life Insurance Co., inc. is unblemished. It is my wish that it further strengthens, be a consistent ally in developing the insurance industry, and celebrate many more years of financial protection to the Filipino people.

EVANGELINE CRISOSTOMO-ESCOBILLO
Insurance Commissioner

Philippine Life Insurance Association, Incorporated

The Philippine Life Insurance Association (PLIA) extends its warmest greetings and congratulations to Philippines International Life Insurance Company (Philinterlife) on its 51st Anniversary.

Philinterlife has fully committed itself to help bring the benefits of life insurance to our countrymen. During these times of heightened challenges in the business environment, Philinterlife remains confident that the life insurance industry will attain its growth and service objectives as it strives to give better products and services to the Filipino families in order to help them prepare for a more financially secure future.

More power!

EMILIO S. DE QUIROS, JR.
President

Philippines International Life Insurance Company

PHILIPPINES INTERNATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO., INC. (Philinterlife) was established in the year 1956, when the Securities and Exchange Commission issued its Certificate of Registration to operate the business of life insurance for a span of 50 years. Year 2006 marked its golden Anniversary for having completed fifty years of faithful service to the insuring public.

In 1983, PHILINTERLIFE was handled and its affairs, led under a new management and corporate leadership, was fortunate enough to guide the whole enterprise to a much better horizon under whose hands fell the singular privilege of seeking and successfully securing a new mandate from the Securities and Exchange Commission for another FIFTY (50) YEARS to operate.

Today it is our 1st anniversary for another 50 years extension or new life of PHILINTERLIFE. This is also a new turning point for our company in another quest for business excellence in the field of life insurance and it behooves upon us to gladly inform our loyal clients, supporters, friends, associates and the insuring public that, henceforth, our corporate anniversary shall fall on each and every July 6th of the year.

There is every reason for us to strive for better service and to continue to be firm in our pledges and fulfill our commitments to our valued insureds and policyholders even as we abide by all rules and regulations promulgated by the Insurance Commission, having direct supervision over our official activities and the laws governing our entire operations.

We will continue to be compliant with all the things that ought to be done for the benefit of the Filipino people and, likewise, with any and all professional associations of which PHILINTERLIFE has been a very active and supportive member.

It is, indeed, with pride to state that we have survived all the obstacles in the past fifty years and, as we look forward to the next half a century of service taking us into another lifetime, we dream once more that we shall leave behind a legacy to continue our sublime efforts until eternity.

MABUHAY ANG PHILINTERLIFE!

JOSE C. LEE
President

PHILINTERLIFE OFFICERS

ANGEL ONG
Chairman
JOSE C. LEE
President
BENJAMIN C. LEE
Executive Vice President
CONRADO C. CRUZ, JR.
Executive Officer/ VP Sales
JOHN OLIVER L. PASCUAL
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VP-Legal Affairs
ALMA Z. AGGABAO
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DANIEL MERCADO, JR.
Actuarial Consultant
ATTY. TEODORICO P. FERNANDEZ
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Sales & Marketing Consultant
LOHEL A. MARTIREZ
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NATIONAL RE-INSURANCE CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

GENERAL AGENTS

JOY INSURANCE AGENCY
FLAVIANO BIARE
Pres. & General Manager

SUPREME CARE I. A. & MGT., INC.
ARNOLD S. CRESPO
Pres. & General Manager.

NATIONWIDE BRANCHES

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Metro Manila Branch
GEORGE GONZALES
Metro Manila Branch
NORMA BABASA
San Pablo City Branch
EMIR PANGANIBAN
Batangas City Branch
DAMASINO ROSAS
Marinduque Branch
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Isabela Branch
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Daet, Camarines Norte Branch
EMMA GALIDO
Bohol, Cebu Branch
JESUS BERNARDO PALMA
North Mindanao Branch
TERESITA GATCHALIAN
Davao City Branch
ALEJANDRA CALISNAO
Office-in-charge R-VI Branch

PHILINTERLIFE IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE FF:

Philippine Life Insurance Association (PLIA)
PNP-SOSIA Life Insurance Program
Payroll Deduction Insurance Association (PDIA)
Salary Deduction Assistance Association (SDAA)
Philippine Society of Insurance Medicine (PSIM)
Star Healthcare System. Inc.
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San Miguel eyes sale of stake in Australian dairy company

RP firm hopes to sell National Foods stock to Kirin Brewery

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

SHARES OF FOOD AND BEVERage giant San Miguel Corp. yesterday surged after it said it was discussing a possible sale of its stake in Australia's National Foods Ltd. to Japanese brewer Kirin Holdings Co.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, SMC corporate information officer Ferdinand Constantino said that talks with Kirin were still "preliminary."

According to industry sources, SMC wants to sell 49 percent of its stake in National Foods. The proceeds may be used to fund the firm's ambitious foray into high-growth businesses and pay off debt.

Kirin, which is one of the largest shareholders in San Miguel, confirmed that it was "in the early stages of talks" regarding the acquisition of SMC's stake in National Foods. But it added that, for the moment, nothing has been decided.

Kirin's 19.97-percent stake gives the Japanese company three seats in San Miguel's 15-member board of directors.

San Miguel Corp. B shares, available to local and foreign investors, jumped 4.2 percent to P86.50. Its A shares, for local investors only, climbed 2.03 percent to P75.50.

National Foods spokesperson Rupert Hugh-Jones told Dow Jones Newswires there have been discussions between San Miguel "and other parties" regarding the Australian dairy company, but declined to comment further.

According to sources, had SMC decided to sell 49 percent of its stake in National Foods through a private placement last year, they would have roughly gained 1.47 billion Australian dollars.

The same sources said that there are three investors interested in SMC's stake in the Australian dairy.

Reuters reported that SMC has been approached by private equity firm Carlyle regarding the stake in National Foods.

The Australian Financial Review also reported that Kirin has held talks with SMC on the potential acquisition of SMC's juice business, Berri Ltd., and National Foods in Australia.

Kirin is keen on expanding its interests in Australia beyond alcoholic beverages, AFR said.

The Japanese group already controls Australian and New Zealand brewing and wine group Lion Nathan Ltd. through a 46.1-percent stake valued at $2.3 billion, the paper said.

A full year after its consolidation into SMC, National Foods performed strongly in 2006 as it operated a bigger and highly integrated platform of dairy, milk, juice and specialty cheese businesses.

Its consolidated revenue grew 8 percent in 2006, from the previous year to AU$1.84 billion, SMC said in a financial report to the PSE.

SMC is now preparing to tap the capital markets for a massive fund-raising move with the proposed issuance of 1.5 billion in preferred shares.

SMC has gained its board's approval to issue the preferred shares which would be used to pay off debt, fund new businesses and acquisitions, and to implement a possible share buyback.

With a report from AP

Pre-need firms post higher sales

SALES OF PRE-NEED FIRMS ROSE 4.56 percent in the first five months to P8.18 billion from P7.8 billion in the same period last year, according to data from the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Pension plans accounted for the lion's share in sales at P5.15 billion. Sales grew 4.4 percent from January to May compared with the same period last year.

Pension plans accounted for 63 percent of total sales.

Life plans, on the other hand, climbed 43.65 percent to P1.6 billion in the first five months from P1.11 billion in the same period last year.

Life plans accounted for 19.5 percent of sales.

Education plans, on the other hand, fell 19.5 percent to P1.43 billion, from P1.77 billion in the same period last year.

For May alone, sales of pre-need firms rose 20.26 percent to P1.67 billion, from P1.39 billion in the same month in 2006.

Pension plans, which accounted for 70 percent of total sales, grew 42.29 percent to P1.16 billion in May, from P819.475 billion in the same month last year.

Life plans expanded 50 percent to P339 million in May from P225.88 million in the same period last year.

Life plans accounted for 20.27 percent of sales.

Education plans however tumbled 51 percent to P168.6 million, from P346.49 million in the same month last year.

Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

Inflation slowed ...

From page B1

2.4 percent, respectively.

In May, the inflation figure for FLW stood at 4 percent while that for clothing was at 2.5 percent.

Products falling under food, beverage and tobacco (FBT) kept their previous month's average rate of 2.6 percent. Similarly, the NSO said, miscellaneous items recorded a rate of 1.6 percent, same as in May.

Only products falling under housing and repair (H&R), and services registered faster increase in prices. Inflation for H&R stood at 1.5 percent from 1.4 percent the previous month, while that for services hit 2 percent from 1.9 percent.

Excluding volatile prices of selected food and energy items, core inflation decelerated to 2.5 percent in June from 2.6 percent in May.

The 2.3-percent headline inflation for June was at the lower end of the 2.2- to 2.9-percent projection made earlier by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

"The lower inflation rate for June casts a benign outlook, being in the lower range of the BSP forecast," said BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. "The impact of higher world oil prices and ample liquidity were tempered by the positive effects of the strong peso and generally favorable food supply condition."

A stronger peso makes imported goods cheaper, helping temper the increase in overall consumer prices. The peso closed at 46.24 to a dollar in June, stronger than the 53.11 recorded in the same month last year.

The BSP, whose mandate is to ensure stability of consumer prices, said that the inflation figure would be considered in the Monetary Board's policy meeting next Thursday.

The BSP earlier hinted at keeping its key policy rates unchanged, at 9.75 for overnight lending and 7.5 percent for overnight borrowing. It said that its monetary stance was neutral, expecting no substantial pressure on prices.

Jollibee sets expansion sights on US, S. Arabia

JOLLIBEE FOODS CORP., THE country's biggest fast food chain, is set to expand its interests in the United States, China, Indonesia and Saudi Arabia.

Following the company's stockholder's meeting, Jollibee chair Tony Tan Caktiong yesterday told reporters that it is focusing on growing the Jollibee, Red Ribbon Bakeshop and Chowking brands in the United States.

Jollibee and Red Ribbon branches recently opened in Las Vegas.

Also, Red Ribbon recently set up shop in New Jersey on the east coast of the United States.

In China, Jollibee is keen on expanding its Yonghe King brand, and to acquire three more brands, possibly in the fast food chain over the next two to three years.

Last year, Jollibee also opened its first Chun Shui Tang tea house in Shanghai after the exclusive franchise in China was awarded to Jollibee in 2004.

Jollibee is also looking at opening its first stores in Asia's largest cities, such as Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia, and Riyadh, the capital of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Jollibee is also studying the market in India.

Tan Caktiong said Jollibee in the Philippines continues to enjoy steady growth.

The company did particularly well during the months of April and May, he added.

Jollibee's net income for the first quarter grew 18 percent, while system wide sales increased by 131 percent.

Jollibee chief finance officer Ysmael Baysa said election spending and the overall improvement in consumer spending drove up its bottom line in the second quarter.

This year, the company will spend P2.1 billion to expand its network by 130 stores in the Philippines and abroad, Baysa said. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

Shares hit record high

From page B1

day's high 3,802.32. The low was 3,730.64 points.

The broader all-share index gained 37.26 points to 2,435.43. Gainers led losers 93 to 32, with 47 stocks unchanged.

Volume was 3.5 billion shares worth P5.2 billion ($112.78 million).

"Stocks were boosted by the benign inflation numbers," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities Inc.

According to Chase Yap of 2TradeAsia, the low inflation rate in June had somewhat offset mounting concerns over the government's capability to meet its fiscal targets this year.

"A low inflation regime is positive news for interest rate-sensitive sectors such as property and banking," Yap said.

Ayala Corp. added P20 to P585. Its unit, Ayala Land Inc., was up 25 centavos to P18.

Also, select mining stocks rose in line with firmer base metal prices. *AFP*

CURRENCIES

July 5, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.734592	1.000000	45.9690
Japan	Yen	0.005991	0.008155	0.3749
United Kingdom	Pound	1.481598	2.016900	92.7149
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.094033	0.128007	5.8844
Switzerland	Franc	0.603957	0.822166	37.7941
Canada	Dollar	0.694059	0.944822	43.4325
Singapore	Dollar	0.482808	0.657246	30.2129
Australia	Dollar	0.630118	0.857780	39.4313
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.948726	2.652801	121.9466
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.195880	0.266652	12.2577
Brunei	Dollar	0.481226	0.655093	30.1140
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000111	0.0051
Thailand	Baht	0.023320	0.031746	1.4593
UAE	Dirham	0.200003	0.272264	12.5157
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.361300	62.5776
Korea	Won	0.000799	0.001087	0.0500
China	Yuan**	0.096724	0.131671	6.0528
Argentina	Peso	0.237732	0.323625	14.8767
Brazil	Real	0.385047	0.524164	24.0953
Denmark	Kroner	0.134420	0.182986	8.4117
India	Rupee	0.018183	0.024752	1.1378
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.213327	0.290402	13.3495
Mexico	New Peso	0.068296	0.092971	4.2738
New Zealand	Dollar	0.574079	0.781494	35.9245
Norway	Kroner	0.126056	0.171600	7.8883
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012167	0.016563	0.7614
South Africa	Rand	0.105895	0.144155	6.6267
Sweden	Kroner	0.109217	0.148677	6.8345
Syria	Pound	0.014151	0.019264	0.8855
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022401	0.030495	1.4018
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000342	0.000466	0.0214

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time - July 4, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen ** Asian time closing rate as of July 4, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 5, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN		LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.2	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.25	112,200
73	30.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	71	73	71	73	838,000
73.5	47.5	Bank of the Philippine Islands	71.5	72	71.5	72	899,900
935	630	China Banking Corp.	915	915	915	915	170
20.25	18.18	Citystate Savings Bank	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank, Inc	0.56	0.57	0.56	0.56	1,250,000
75.5	34	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	71	73.5	71	72.5	3,540,200
65	32.5	Philippine National Bank	62.5	63.5	62.5	63	239,000
68	38.5	Philippine Savings Bank	64.5	65	64.5	65	4,000
54.5	39.5	Philippine Trust Co.	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.5	1,500
39.57	14.13	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	35	35.5	35	35.5	4,431,700
90	44	Security Bank Corp.	87.5	89	87	88	429,100
66	41.54	Union Bank of the Philippines	63	63	62	63	261,500
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.72	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	4.85	4.85	4.8	4.8	258,000
1.5	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.22	1.24	1.22	1.22	434,000
14.25	1.5	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	12	12	12	12	471,000
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	1.2	1.24	1.2	1.24	556,000
42	28	First Metro Investment Corp.	42	42	42	42	5,000
1,710.00	1,500.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,685.00	1,685.00	1,685.00	1,685.00	730
5	4.05	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	4.35	4.35	4.3	4.35	3,246,000
3.1	0.99	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.8	461,000
1,005.00	210	The Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc	830	835	820	825	5,590
2,250.00	1,895.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,200.00	2,200.00	2,200.00	2,200.00	690
1.94	1.2	Vantage Corp	1.84	1.84	1.82	1.84	662,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
68	41.5	First Gen Corp.	67	67.5	67	67	452,800
91.5	41	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	90	91	90	91	723,100
13.25	7.4	Manila Water Co. Inc.	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.75	3,482,200
116	14.5	Manila Electric Co. "A"	110	112	109	110	124,670
118	22	Manila Electric Co. "B"	111	112	109	112	1,252,790
6.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.8	18,795,000
6	3.7	Petron Corp.	5.8	6	5.8	6	17,073,000
1.9	0.91	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp	1.52	1.52	1.5	1.5	176,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	2.85	Alaska Milk Corp.	6	6.3	6	6.2	147,000
2.95	1.88	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.3	2.32	2.28	2.28	388,000
2.75	1.24	CADP Group Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	20,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	12,000
61	30.5	Jollibee Foods Corp.	53	55.5	53	55.5	498,300
1.9	0.77	RFM Corp.	1.68	1.7	1.68	1.7	252,000
4.05	2.2	Roxas Holdings	2.95	3.1	2.95	3	1,114,000
80	61	San Miguel Corp. "A"	74	75.5	73.5	75.5	452,300
88	69.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	83	87	83	86.5	570,800
0.61	0.2	Swift Foods Inc.	0.5	0.51	0.48	0.48	720,000
4.3	2	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.2	87,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	17.5	17.75	17.25	17.5	505,200
0.55	0.19	Vitarich Corp	0.4	0.51	0.4	0.5	8,830,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.43	EEI Corp.	5.9	6	5.8	6	672,000
9.2	4.3	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8	8.2	8	8.2	283,000
2	0.245	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc	1.78	1.78	1.76	1.76	515,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	1.42	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	2,030,000
2.5	1.44	Euro-Med Laboratories Phil. Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	63,000
1.34	0.8	Interphil Laboratories Inc. "A"	0.9	1.34	0.9	1.34	870,000
1.4	0.61	Interphil Laboratories Inc. "B"	1	1.4	1	1.36	1,070,000
1.46	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	237,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
7	5.1	Panasonic Manufacturing Phils. Corp	7	7	7	7	1,000
0.44	0.0625	Picop Resources Inc.	0.36	0.37	0.35	0.37	9,310,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	1.74	A. Soriano Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	269,000
0.17	0.023	AJD.net Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.145	0.125	0.135	124,570,000
1.28	0.18	APC Group Inc.	1.12	1.16	1.1	1.12	18,953,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.16	2.34	2.16	2.26	2,745,000
3.3	1.48	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	40,000
0.018	0.0065	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	27,800,000
0.019	0.0065	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "B"	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	9,800,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	8.8	9.1	8.8	9.1	29,978,000
0.021	0.007	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.018	50,100,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	6	6	5.9	5.9	4,545,000
1.38	0.47	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	220,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.55	2.6	2.55	2.55	2,695,000
8	0.8	Aries Prime Resources Inc.	7	8	6	7	450,000
590	308.33	Ayala Corp.	565	585	555	585	321,530
14	6.96	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	13.75	14	13.75	14	53,100
6.9	0.7	Balabac Resources and Holdings Co. Inc.	5	5	4.7	4.85	681,000
5.6	1.02	Benpres Holdings Corp.	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.2	8,080,000
9.8	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9.4	9.4	9.1	9.1	164,000
2.02	0.7	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. "A"	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	50,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	7.4	7.6	7.4	7.5	1,970,000
3.55	1.16	House of Investments Inc.	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	55,000
14.5	5.6	JG Summit Holdings Inc	12.75	12.75	12.5	12.5	280,500
0.8	0.185	MEDCO Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	240,000
0.95	0.1	Mabuhay Holdings Corp	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	10,000
30	0.88	Magnum Holdings Inc.	24.25	25.5	24	24.25	1,856,400
11.5	0.26	Multitech Investments Corp.	9.5	10	9.3	9.5	7,783,000
5.4	1.2	PAL Holdings Inc.	4.45	4.95	4.45	4.8	2,203,000
0.049	0.009	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.033	0.049	0.033	0.049	859,700,000
0.75	0.16	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.58	0.62	0.58	0.6	13,560,000
2	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	2	2	2	2	157,000
452.5	200.44	SM Investments Corp.	450	450	447.5	450	246,740
2.2	0.71	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	506,000
0.73	0.115	Sinophil Corp.	0.56	0.58	0.55	0.56	24,000,000
1.06	0.51	Solid Group Inc.	0.88	0.9	0.87	0.88	1,590,000
1.6	0.78	South China Resources Inc.	1.42	1.46	1.38	1.46	51,000
0.75	0.08	Wellex Industries Inc	0.38	0.43	0.38	0.42	9,890,000
1.1	0.155	Zeus Holdings Inc	0.89	1.1	0.89	0.96	4,460,000
		PROPERTY					
2.16	0.75	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.68	1.68	235,000
1.06	0.3	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.8	0.83	0.8	0.83	670,000
19.25	9.58	Ayala Land Inc.	17.75	18	17.5	18	56,850,800
1.88	0.99	Belle Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.68	1.68	5,468,000
4.7	1.96	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.4	4.45	4.4	4.45	53,000
4.6	1.6	City and Land Developers Inc	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	15,000
0.85	0.26	Crown Equities Inc.	0.79	0.83	0.79	0.82	10,670,000
0.83	0.17	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.58	0.61	0.58	0.59	10,870,000
3.25	0.72	Edsa Properties Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	72,000
0.99	0.44	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.87	0.88	0.87	0.88	36,170,000
0.32	0.033	Ever Golesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	4,490,000
1.38	0.38	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.2	1.26	1.2	1.2	40,598,000
2.44	0.99	Filinvest Land Inc.	2.18	2.2	2.16	2.16	71,980,000
0.41	0.065	Golesco Land Inc. "A"	0.34	0.35	0.32	0.32	1,000,000
0.42	0.07	Golesco Land Inc. "B"	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.35	1,440,000
0.69	0.2	Kuok Phil. Properties Inc.	0.44	0.45	0.44	0.45	790,000
1.12	0.18	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.93	0.99	0.93	0.97	35,070,000
4.4	1.28	Megaworld Corp.	4.15	4.15	4.1	4.15	24,983,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	145,000
0.7	0.1	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.45	0.5	0.44	0.48	4,720,000
0.87	0.25	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.66	0.66	11,920,000
9.2	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	6.9	6.9	6.6	6.7	63,000
23	10.25	Robinson Land Corp.	21	21.75	21	21.75	2,512,200
5.7	1.23	SM Development Corp.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.6	946,000
13.25	5.92	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	12.5	13.25	12.5	13.25	7,957,800
1.34	0.51	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	1.02	1.04	0.99	1	1,390,000
0.36	0.06	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	1,440,000
7.4	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc	7	7	6.6	6.9	1,613,000
		MEDIA					
34	15.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31	32.5	31	32	57,400
1.14	0.98	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	2,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.16	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.58	1.6	707,000
1,445.00	900	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,395.00	1,400.00	1,350.00	1,400.00	63,760
2,820.00	1,790.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co	2,700.00	2,720.00	2,695.00	2,720.00	70,180
7.9	3.2	Pilipino Telephone Corp	7.2	7.3	7.2	7.3	9,028,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.31	0.29	0.3	15,530,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	11	11	11	11	29,000
9.3	2	IPVG Corp.	9	9.3	8.7	9	14,460,000
0.065	0.0274	ISM Communications Corp.	0.047	0.049	0.046	0.048	93,800,000
25	5.5	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	21.5	25	21.5	24.5	199,400
0.185	0.04	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.14	0.165	0.135	0.15	110,200,000
0.0725	0.027	PhilWeb Com Inc	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	154,800,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l Inc	3.2	3.3	2.95	2.95	22,138,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
1.92	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.6	1.84	1.6	1.82	801,000
32	13.25	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc	28.5	29	28.5	29	673,200
2	0.8	Lorenzo Shipping Corp	1.64	2	1.64	1.78	232,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
16.5	3.8	Acesite (Phils.) Hotel Corp.	5	5	5	5	3,000
4.25	1.26	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3.7	3.7	3.65	3.7	1,817,000
6.1	2.7	Manila Jockey Club Inc.	5	6.1	5	6.1	201,000
0.98	0.18	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc	0.74	0.74	0.71	0.71	2,100,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	630,000
		EDUCATION					
3.7	2.65	iPeople Inc	3.25	3.3	3.25	3.25	87,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
5.9	1.9	Macroasia Corp.	5.9	5.9	5.2	5.2	6,994,000
17.25	13	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5	167,000
30	9.9	Pawnbrokers Inc	23.5	23.5	23.25	23.5	678,300
		MINING					
0.018	0.0075	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.015	126,900,000
7.6	3	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.7	290,000
7.7	3	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.7	471,000
21.25	7.4	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	15.5	16.5	15.25	16.5	11,208,000
14.25	8.7	Benguet Corp. "A"	11.75	12.25	11.75	12.25	67,800
5	1.7	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	4.1	4.4	4.1	4.3	143,000
3.05	0.0713	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc.	2.85	3.05	2.85	2.95	168,902,000
0.35	0.215	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.28	0.29	0.27	0.27	26,760,000
0.42	0.225	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	410,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.033	0.033	0.032	0.032	57,100,000
0.041	0.019	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.035	0.035	0.033	0.033	336,000,000
0.024	0.008	Omico Corp.	0.018	0.019	0.018	0.018	290,800,000
6.4	3.15	Philex Mining Corp.	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.8	9,390,000
31.5	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	30	31.5	30	31.5	294,700
1.36	0.35	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.95	1.06	0.95	1.02	4,080,000
1.8	0.52	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp	1.34	1.4	1.34	1.38	5,660,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Petroleum Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.43	0.45	4,990,000
0.025	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.022	0.023	0.022	0.023	122,300,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	25,800,000
14.25	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10	10.25	10	10.25	224,000
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp	0.023	0.025	0.023	0.025	338,100,000

BY INQUIRER RESEARCH SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
PHILIPPINE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
NIA Northside Road, National Government Center
Pinyahan, Quezon City

ANNOUNCEMENT

1. The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), a government agency under the Office of the President of the Republic of the Philippines and created pursuant to Republic Act No. 9165, otherwise known as the "Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002," is now accepting applications to fill up four hundred seventy two (472) new positions for PDEA Drug Enforcement Officers.
2. The following are the vacant positions together with the corresponding salary grade, number of slots, preferred education and experience.

Name of Position	SG	# of Slots	Education	Experience	Eligibility
Intelligence Officer 1	11	467	Bachelor's Degree	None Required	CSC Professional Second Level Eligibility
Special Investigator 1	11	2	Bachelor's Degree	None Required	CSC Professional Second Level Eligibility
Security Officer 1	11	3	Bachelor's Degree	None Required	CSC Professional Second Level Eligibility
TOTAL		472			

3. Interested applicants must possess the following minimum qualifications:
   a. Filipino Citizen;
   b. At least 21 years of age and preferably below forty (40) years of age;
   c. Height: Preferably 5'2" for male and 5'0 for female;
   d. Must be physically and mentally fit;
   e. Of proven integrity and honesty and without criminal and / or derogatory records;
   f. Baccalaureate degree holder; and
   g. Passed the CSC Professional Eligibility Examination or Bar/Board Examination.
4. Interested applicants shall undergo the following phases of screening in order to qualify for the vacant positions:
   a. **FIRST PHASE:** The applicants shall take the written entrance examination (which shall include IQ and Aptitude Test) to be administered by the PDEA on July 14, 2007 at any of the following testing centers and the results thereof shall be published a week later in newspapers of major circulation:
      1) Fort Bonifacio High School, J.P. Rizal Extension, Makati City for Metro Manila and Luzon;
      2) Abellana National High School, Osmeña Boulevard, Cebu City;
      3) Davao City National High School, F. Torres St., Davao City.
   b. **SECOND PHASE:** Those who passed the written examination shall undergo the neuro—psychiatric (NP) examination and background investigation.
   c. **THIRD PHASE:** Applicants who successfully passed the neuro-psychiatric examination and background investigation shall undergo physical fitness, medical, laboratory, and drug examinations.
   d. **FOURTH PHASE:** Those who successfully passed the previous phases shall undergo problem solving, essay-type and structured examination/interview.
   e. **FIFTH PHASE:** The PDEA Recruitment Committee shall select the qualified applicants. It shall ensure that the results of every phase are published as soon as available, in the spirit of transparency.
5. Upon selection and appointment, the appointees shall undergo the six (6) month basic training at the **PDEA Academy**, Camp Castañeda, Silang, Cavite.
6. Priority shall be given to applicants who are presently employed or utilized by the PDEA.
7. Personnel of the PNP, AFP and other government agencies who wish to apply shall undergo the same screening process and basic training.
8. Application Forms are available at the PDEA Academy, PDEA Annex Building, NIA Northside Road, National Government Center, Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City and all PDEA Regional Offices.
9. Please call Telephone Number 929-1106 Local 178 for clarification and other related matters.

(Sgd.) GEN. DIONISIO R. SANTIAGO (Ret.)
Sr. Undersecretary / Director General
Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency

GROWTH WITH EQUITY IN MINDANAO (GEM) PROGRAM

A Project of the United States Agency for International Development
The General Contractor is THE LOUIS BERGER GROUP, INC.
Tel: (6382) 225-1569 • Fax: (6382) 225-1479
USAID Contract No: 492-C-00-02-00018-00

URGENT REQUIREMENT

Invitation for Submission of Bids for the Supply, Delivery, and Installation of Desktop Computers to GEM-Partner Schools in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and other Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao (CAAM) under the USAID-financed Growth with Equity in Mindanao Program

The Louis Berger Group, Inc., a U.S. firm contracted by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to implement the Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program, is inviting interested and qualified companies/contractors/suppliers to submit bids for the supply of computers to partner schools under its Computer Literacy and Internet Connection (CLIC) Program and Education Awareness and Support Effort (EASE) components. Procurement shall be conducted in accordance with the U.S. Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) – Part 14, which governs sealed bidding procedures. The contract shall be awarded based on the technical, financial, and organizational capability of the bidder, the responsiveness of the submission to the essential requirements of the Invitation for Bid (IFB) and, the reasonableness of the bid.

Essentially, the contracted work shall consist of providing up to 930 computers and local area networking materials to approximately 234 schools located in the provinces of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and other conflict-affected areas in Mindanao (CAAM), based on a procurement/delivery schedule beginning on or about August through September 2007, with the following specifications:

U.S.-branded Desktop Computers: at least Intel Celeron 2.66 GHz or AMD Sempron 1.8 GHz or its U.S. commercial equivalent; 512 MB DDR Memory for workstations and 1 GB Memory for 10 units servers; 60 GB 7200 RPM HDD; 15" colored monitor; 52x max CD ROM; tower casing w/ 300 watts power supply; keyboard; multimedia speakers; USB optical mouse; built-in sound and video cards; floppy disk drive; network adapter LAN card; mouse pad; glass filter screen; CPU protective plastic cover; 500 watts AVR; and 500 VA UPS.

Only bidders that are able to demonstrate their commitment to supply the above-listed hardware according to the required delivery schedule will be considered qualified to participate in this solicitation process. Bidders also must provide the following information which will form part of the basis for evaluating their respective bids: (a) details of their ability to deliver the required products, inclusive of on-time delivery, transport and service arrangements; (b) description of delivery networks in the areas given and a list of their local affiliates/distributors/resellers; (c) list of present contracts as well as that of successfully completed projects similar to the work requirements described herein; and (d) name of a senior counterpart personnel with demonstrated experience in working in the ARMM and CAAM. Further details are provided in the solicitation document.

Starting July 6, 2007, the solicitation document for this procurement activity will be available for pick-up from the office of the GEM Deputy Program Manager for Contracts & Administration with Tel. Nos.: (082) 225-1569 local 202 or (082) 225-1451 to 53. This document will contain the list of proposed schools for assistance and the proposed installation schedule. A pre-bid submission conference is scheduled at 2:30 PM of July 12, 2007 at the GEM Program Management Office in Davao City and prospective bidders are expected to send representatives to this meeting.

Sealed bids must be received no later than 3:00 PM on July 23, 2007 at the office of the GEM Deputy Program Manager for Contracts & Administration (CLIC/EASE Computers), 2/F, 1 Ladislawa Building, Ladislawa Avenue, Buhangin, Davao City, 8000 Philippines. Bid submissions by email or fax will not be accepted. Any questions regarding this procurement activity should be directed to the GEM Program Contracts Office via Fax No.: (082) 225-1454.

The GEM Program is financed by USAID and implemented in partnership with the Mindanao Economic Development Council (MEDCo).

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
PhilHealth Regional Office VI
Majestic Plaza Bldg., #15 J. de Leon St., Iloilo City
Healthline (033) 508-7302 regional@philhealth.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Procurement of Information Technology Equipments
Location : PhilHealth PRO VI
Brief Description : (Specifications shall form part of the bid documents)

Quantity	Unit	Article
20	units	Desk Top with UPS
15	units	Thin Client with UPS
5	units	Printers, (Dot Matrix)
7	units	Printers (Heavy Duty Laser Jet)

Approved Budget : Php 2,320,000.00
Delivery Period : 20 days

Prospective bidders should have an experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Bid Opening, Bid Security, evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification, Performance Security and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activites is listed, as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Advertisement of Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid	1st Advertisement - June 29, 2007, 8:30 a.m. 2nd Advertisement - July 06, 2007, 8:30 a.m.
2. Pre-Bid Conference	July 9, 2007, 8:30 a.m., 2nd floor Conference Room
3. Bid Opening	July 23, 2007, 8:30 a.m., 2nd floor Conference Room
4. Post Qualification, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, and other procurement stages	Refer to RA 9184

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of PhP1,000.00 to the PhilHealth PRO VI Cashier.

The PhilHealth assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

PhilHealth reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject any and all bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) DR. REYNALDO P. SUCGANG, JR.
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - June 29 & July 6, 2007)

Top Asian dentists to grace dental society's 71st year

TOP ASIAN DENTAL SPECIALISTS and their local counterparts will present their scientific papers during the 71st anniversary celebration of the Manila Dental Society on July 8-9 at the Coral Ballroom A, B, and C of the Manila Pavilion Hotel on Ma. Orosa St. cor. T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila. According to Dr. Roberto M. Tajonera, MDS incoming president, the Asian dental specialists who will present their papers during the annual convention and scientific meeting on July 8 are Dr. Kao Shou-Yen of Taiwan (Implant Dentistry), Dr. Tan Boon Tik of Malaysia (Endodontics), Dr. Kaan Sheung Kin of Singapore (Orthodontics), Dr. Allan Roa of the Philippines (Restorative/Aesthetic), and Dr. Paul Achacoso of the Philippines (Prosthodontics). The second day of the convention on July 9 will feature the President's Night and Induction of Officers at 6 PM in the same venue. For inquiries and other details, please contact Dr. Robert Tajonera at tel. no. 735-1229.

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Asian Development Bank A25
PNOC-Energy Development B4
City of Himamaylan B4
Calbayog City Water District B4

OBITUARIES

ANNOUNCEMENT
OF THE DEATH OF

Magdalena (Nena) Narvaez y Reyes Vda. de Arca

(Dr. Teofilo Arca y Riego De Dios)
(July 22, 1917 - June 29, 2007)

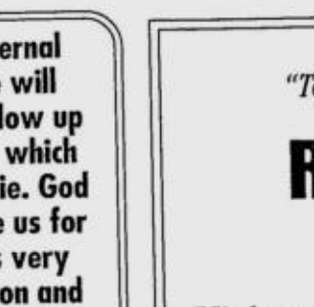
of Maragondon, Cavite

She is survived by her
Daughters: **Amadora, Ruby, Peñafrancia, Irma,** and **Fermina;**
Sons: **Teofilo Jr.** and **Roberto;**
Grandchildren: **Jessica, Edwin, Rowena, Lawrence, Max, Davin, Edric, Kenric**
Great-grandchildren: **Robert, Louren, Lorenzo Miguel**
and in-laws: **Herman Chitra, Mark Carino, Mila Chung** and **Judith Ureta**

Interment will be at Nazarene Eternal Garden in Naic, Cavite on July 8, 2007 after the 2PM Mass at the Philippine Independent Church in Maragondon, Cavite.

OBITUARIES

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me
I took His hand when I heard Him call,
God wanted me now, He set me free.
- Anonymous



ROSA CASTILLO-FAUSTINO

joined her Creator and was reunited with her husband
Forester DOMINADOR M. FAUSTINO, JR.
on July 2, 2007 at the age of 71.

We, her children BONG and FRANCES, BING and BEBOT, BANG and MON (GOMEZ), DOWIE and ERNIE (ACOSTA), DENGDENG and BJORN (NESTENIUS), JUNJUN and MARIE, BONBON and RIZZA, and SUERTE and TRICIA; her grandchildren ANNA and MAXI (ABRINA), BELLE, TARA, MEGAN, MONIQUE, SARAH, RENZO, EIA, LIA, MARC, SANDRINE, BLANCA, DIEGO, and ZOE; her great-grandson FRANCO; and other relatives and friends thank our Lord for allowing her to touch and enrich our lives and for making it possible for us to experience her love and goodness in countless ways. We request the pious readers to pray with us for her eternal peace and happiness.

A memorial service will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, July 8, 2007, at the Resurrection Chapel of the St. Therese of the Child Jesus Parish, Silangan Road, U.P. Los Baños College, Laguna. Inurnment of her cremated remains will be at the St. Therese of the Child Jesus Parish Garden of Peace after the service.

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
2 Corinthians 5:4-5

"To do Your will is my delight; my God, Your Law is in my heart." ***Psalm 40:9***

REYNALDO "BENDIX" NG CHUA

In peace and grace joined our Creator on
May 31, 2007 at the age of 64.

His bereaved wife, **Irma**; children **Benedict, Rowena, Jennifer, Wesley** and **Andre** and grandchildren, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His cremains lie in state at the **Immaculate Concepcion Parish Church**, Bayan-Bayanan Ave., Concepcion, Marikina City.

Requiem Mass will be on Sunday, July 8, at 2:00 p.m. at the Immaculate Concepcion Church.

BUSINESS

POSITIVE SENTIMENT

Asia shares rise; dollar weak, eyeing rates

INSULAR LIFE

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These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

SINGAPORE—ASIAN SHARES TICKED UP, lifted by exporters and resource stocks, with Korea scoring a new record, but the dollar languished at a 26-year low against the pound as the market waited on interest rate decisions in Europe.

European stocks are set to open higher, gaining direction from rising Asian share markets as the United States closed on Wednesday for the Independence Day holiday.

Bookmakers expect Britain's FTSE 100, Germany's DAX and France's CAC 40 to rise between 4 and 11 points.

Sentiment for riskier assets like stocks has been boosted by a fresh bout of takeover activity and optimism over company earnings as investors gear up for the reporting season.

Last Wednesday, the MSCI world equity index—a gauge of broader stock market performance—hit a lifetime peak.

By early yesterday morning, MSCI's measure of Asia Pacific stocks excluding Japan was up 0.6 percent at an all-time high of 479 points, up for a sixth straight session.

Buoyant base metal prices and firm crude oil gave a fillip to Asian resource stocks.

Oil prices held steady around $73 a barrel after briefly marking a new 10-month high as dealers awaited weekly US oil inventory data expected to show little change in crude or fuel stocks.

London Brent crude now seen as the best indicator of global prices, fell 11 cents to $72.94.

Spot gold changed hands at around $655 an ounce, little changed from $654.40 in late European trade on Wednesday, while Shanghai copper rose 0.7 percent after London futures hit a seven-week peak.

Australia's mining-laden S&P/ASX 200 index rose 1 percent.

BHP Billiton Ltd. rose 1.6 percent and rival Rio Tinto Ltd. was up 1.8 percent. Zinc miner Zinifex Ltd. hit a record high on speculation of a possible merger with Oxiana Resources Ltd.

Seoul's shares earlier hit a record closing high for a second straight session, while Taiwan's benchmark TAIEX index rose 0.9 percent to a seven-year closing high. Hong Kong's Hang Seng and Singapore's Straits Times index both rose 0.4 percent.

But China's main stock index tumbled 3.4 percent, extending a two-week downtrend that analysts said pointed to a medium-term correction.

Tokyo's Nikkei average closed up 0.3 percent, rising for a sixth session, as investors picked up exporters as the yen weakened slightly. Sony Corp. rose 2.4 percent and Hitachi Ltd. added 1.8 percent.

"The yen's fall has sparked some buying of export-related shares, particularly those with solid earnings prospects," said Hiroaki Kuramochi, managing director at Bear Stearns.

The dollar traded at 122.68 yen, while the euro was at 167.05 yen The euro traded at around $1.3616 against the dollar.

Expectations of rising interest rates outside the United States weighed on the dollar, which was steady at $2.02 versus the pound. The Bank of England is seen lifting rates by 25 basis points to 5.75 percent, while the European Central Bank is expected to keep rates on hold but reinforce expectations for higher rates in the future. *Reuters*

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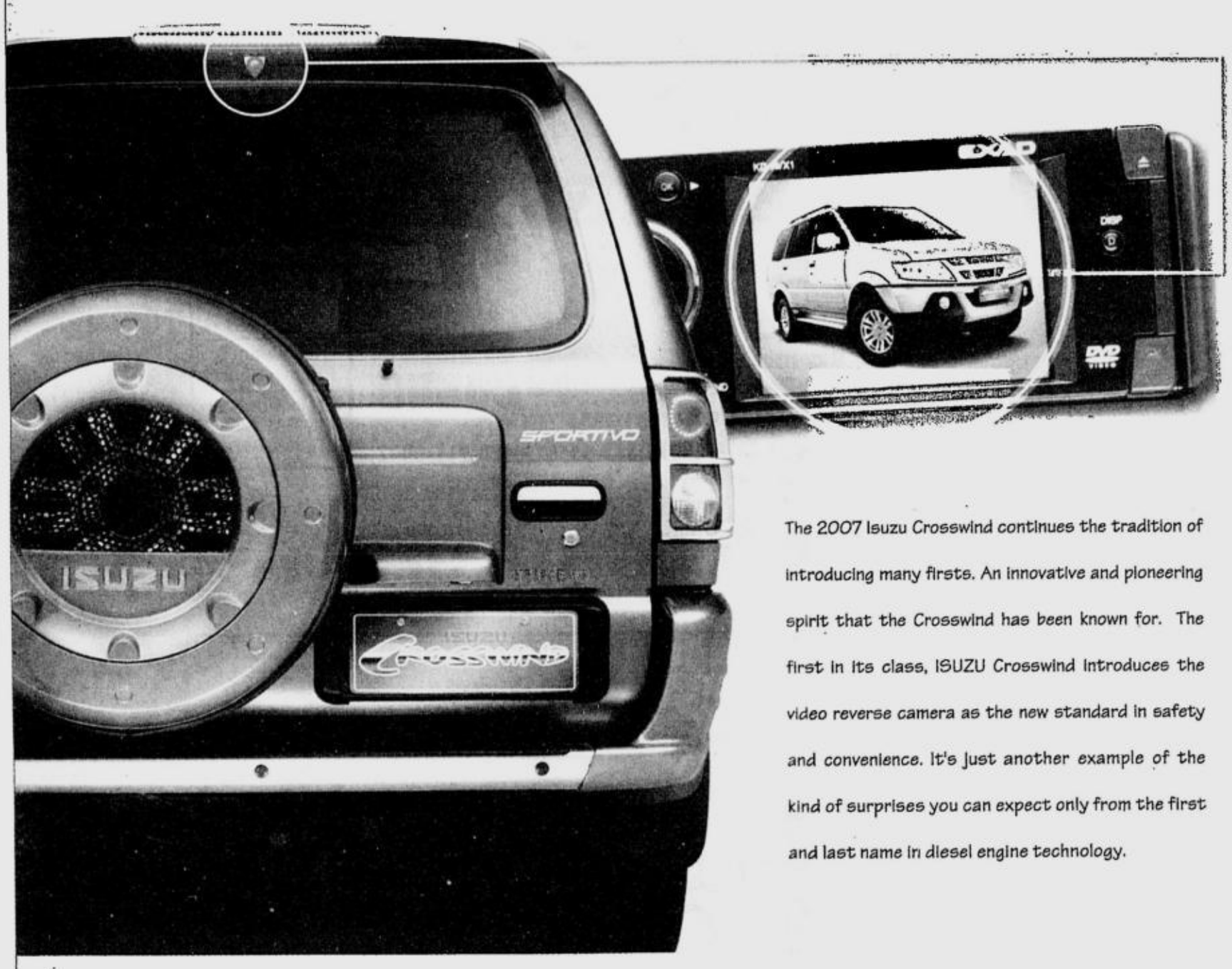

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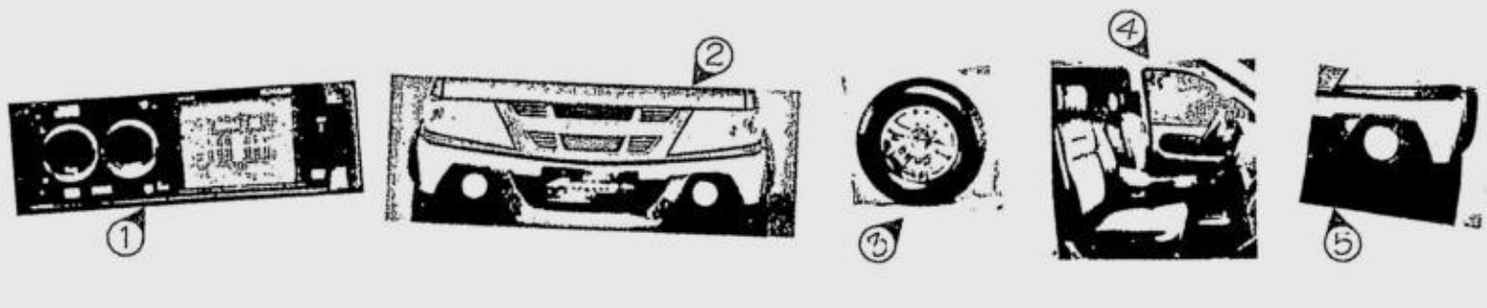

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Apec to discuss reviving Doha

CAIRNS, AUSTRALIA—TRADE MINISTERS from 21 Apec nations began gathering in Australia yesterday for talks they hope could provide a spark to reignite stalled efforts to liberalize world trade.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum talks in the northern city of Cairns mark the first major trade ministers' meeting to take place since negotiations over the liberalizing global trade collapsed two weeks ago.

Australian Trade Minister Warren Truss, who is chairing the meeting in the run-up to the Apec leaders' summit in Sydney in September, said that while the ministers had a broader agenda, they could provide leadership on resolving the impasse on agriculture and manufacturing.

"Foremost in our discussions today will be an assessment of the Doha round of negotiations and an examination of how we may be able to contribute constructively to that process," he told the ministers.

"If we are able to reach a degree of consensus, well that can provide some leadership," he added in an interview with the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

The Doha round of World Trade Organization (WTO) talks remain stalled over agricultural subsidies and trade tariffs.

Discussions between the so-called "G4"—the European Union, United States, Brazil and India—collapsed last month in Germany.

But analysts said any breakthrough in Cairns was very unlikely as the United States is the only G4 economy to be represented at the meeting.

Truss conceded that the failure of the G4 talks again raised the question of whether the Doha round could reach a conclusion suitable to all 150 members of the WTO but said there remained a glimmer of hope on resurrecting the talks.

"The failure of the G4 to reach an agreement ... has certainly again raised questions about our capacity to conclude a successful deal in the short- to medium-term.

"Shortly, it's expected the agriculture and non-agricultural negotiating chairs will issue draft texts and hopefully that will create some sort of a basis for a new round of discussions," he said. United States Trade Representative Susan Schwab told the ABC that Apec, whose members account for 60 percent of the world's gross domestic product, could play an important role in breathing life into the WTO talks.

"If Apec is able to make a statement as a group then that is likely to influence the outcome (of talks at the WTO) in Geneva," she said.

The ministers, who will meet informally Thursday before issuing a communique on Friday, will also discuss the long-term goal of a free trade area for the Asia Pacific, an initiative which may gain momentum if the Doha round fails. *AFP*

BUSINESS*Friday*

E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/business
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

25 lessons from 25 years of marketing

Author lists ways to learn from mistakes

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

By Willy E. Arcilla
Contributor

I AM SHARING THESE 25 LESSONS SO THAT young practitioners of marketing and advertising can learn something useful. In other words, learn from the mistakes I've made.

1. Love your consumer above all else—including your boss, if necessary, because even the boss can be fired by consumers. Ultimately, the consumer IS the boss.

2. Do not allow anyone or anything to besmirch your brand's reputation because the damages can be long-lasting if not irreparable, and thus costlier than it seems.

3. Do not change anything in your brand just to make a name for yourself. Do it because it will satisfy consumers and that will ultimately strengthen your brand.

4. Know your brand and product/service as much as you can, because you can't market or sell what you don't love, and you can't love what you don't know.

5. Remember that ultimately, a good product or service is the best form of marketing as you will win loyal customers who will generate word-of-mouth advertising. Conversely therefore, a bad product or service is the worst form of marketing.

6. Do not force consumers to buy what they don't want or need. You are simply wasting your time, money and talent—and turning off your prospects.

7. Do not covet your competitor's positioning. Find your own—a brand positioning that is important, specific and unique with a strong point-of-difference that will convince consumers to prefer your brand. It should answer the basic questions of "Why should I switch?" or "What's in it for me?" Once you've found that singular position for your brand, stay single-minded and focused.

8. Do not lose credibility through cheating, stealing from or lying to consumers. Uphold the Pana's ideal of "Truth in Advertising."

9. Remember that the best form of advertising is packaging, not TV commercials, because it's what the consumer sees at the point-of-purchase, reads, compares with competition, buys and takes home. Bear in mind that "first on the shelf" does not mean "first in the mind," so advertising is just as vital.

10. Do not sell ads since consumers don't

25 LESSONS/ B2-3

Franchising takes a big leap

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FOURTEEN YEARS AFTER A GROUP OF local retailers paved the way for making franchising an institution in the Philippines, franchisers are looking at this business approach as an important push along what the Arroyo administration describes as the road to becoming a First World country.

Robert Trota, president of the Philippine Franchisers Association, says the key to this First World vision was "a large armada of entrepreneurs rather than an army of our labor force staying as employees for life."

Trota, who is also president of Ma'x Franchising Inc. that owns the Ma'x Chicken brand, said franchising provides the way for people to put up a business with capital as low as P300,000 or even P150,000.

"Not only that, franchising allows (neophyte) entrepreneurs access to business models that have proven track records," he said. "That is why we observe a 90-percent success rate among outlets of franchises in the country."

'Sari-sari' store concept

Further, Trota said this mode of business was all the more relevant with the continual migration of Filipino workers—which, while contributing significantly in the domestic economy, leaves deep and lasting scars in the nation's psyche.

"With franchising, OFWs are given the option of not returning abroad and raising their families while growing a business," he said.

However, Trota lamented that while more and more people were now trying their hands in business, many were still trapped in the *sari-sari* store concept with the buy-cheap mentality.

"These people remain unaware of the vast opportunities that doing things 'big' offers," he added.

Thinking small

"While the 'sachet economy' is being bandied about for too long, Filipino (entrepreneurs) are stunting their growth by thinking small," Trota said.

On the other hand, he warned that while franchising offers a bridge from small-time operations to the big-league, the concept has also been vulnerable to abuse.

"We should all beware of fly-by-night outfits and pseudo-concepts being peddled to the unwary," Trota said.

A similar group, the Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc. started 10 years ago with the belief that the key to a successful franchise operations was responsible franchising.

AFFI president Ricardo Cuna said AFFI's activities were anchored on not leaving the franchisee on his own.

Cuna said AFFI, in its thrust to help beginning franchisors, created business models based on successful small and medium franchising operations.

It also crafted a template for a lean but mean organization, created the corresponding basic sets of systems and procedures, determined support structures, developed training modules, adopted an effective marketing approach, and conducted regular educational seminars for the members and their staff.

"All of these were intended to spare the franchisee all the birth and growing up pains, all the headaches and heartaches that normally comes with starting up a business on one's own," he said.

At the same time, PFA sees franchising would grow steadily at 20 percent to 30 percent yearly, considering that when the trend was just starting in 1995 there were only 50 registered franchises in the country. There are now 993 franchise concepts, of which about two thirds are home-grown.

PFA data show that as of 2006, franchising accounted for 15 percent of total retail sales or $5 billion (about P240 billion).

According to the book titled "A guide to franchising in the Philippines," which was launched in yesterday's opening of PFA's 15th Philippine International Franchise Conference at the Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati City, franchising is expected to continue to grow outside the urban areas and spread to the provinces and small towns.

The guide, a product of collaboration between PFA and the Private Enterprise Accelerated Resource Linkages (Pearl 2) Project, also says more Filipino brands and franchise would penetrate the international market.

"Venture capitalists would invest P1 billion at most in the sector, which would mean more capital available for new business concepts, expansion of more stores regionally and internationally, and high-technology operations," it adds.

The same goes with AFFI, many of whose members have gone to the different regions talking about franchising and enticing more budding entrepreneurs.

New franchise concepts

By Alexa H. Bacay

THERE ARE ALREADY HUNDREDS OF franchise concepts out there for the entrepreneur to choose from. But it seems that there is still room for so much more.

Business Friday features new concepts in the market introduced by the Philippine Franchise Association and Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc.

3dMe Concept

3dMe Concept is a photo novelty and gift shop. This company uses 3D and green screen software technology that converts any picture, image, film, negative into a three dimensional (3D) image in less than 10 minutes. They can use any template (background, scenery, licensed property such as Disney or Mattel) by using revolutionary green screen software for personalizing pictures and photos for people of all ages and for use in different occasions.

P550,000 to P600,000 per cart (2x2 sq.m.) for a complete franchise kit which includes software, hardware equipment, the cart, 3-4 weeks inventory and manual.

J. Alba's Bulalo Express

Bulalo, local Philippine delicacy started in the province of Batangas. This steaming hot soup dish consists of beef leg or beef shank, garden fresh vegetables, local herbs and spices. For those with meticulous taste, they have to travel all the way to Tagaytay or Batangas to taste this favorite native dish. However, the health conscious are wary of the high cholesterol content of bulalo. J. Alba's Bulalo Express will be the first to introduce healthy bulalo with fat free soup available to nearby malls hot and fast.

Investment package:

Franchise A (food cart): P180,000

Franchise B (food stall): P300,000-P350,000

Franchise C (dine-in resto): P1.5-P2M

Authentic Japanese Corn

Authentic Japanese Corn is part of the Metro Foodcart Business Corp. (MFB). MFB is geared toward becoming the most versatile and effective food cart operator in the country. Their intent is to help retiring Filipino employees, university graduates, returning overseas Filipino workers and would-be entrepreneurs in providing support and education in the areas of owning and operating a successful and thriving kiosk business.

Franchise fee: P120,000

Frito Frio (The Real fried ice cream)

Frito Frio is a business concept of Frederick Siy, who got the idea in 2005 when he chanced upon a restaurant selling fried ice cream in France. Frito Frio introduced a whole new concept of fried-to-order pre-mixed flavors. Frito Frio has the customer's own unique preference in mind. They serve preservative-free, made-to-order sundaes and toppings. They will soon be expanding their product line to serve other food and drinks.

Franchise fee: P360,000 Metro Manila; P380,000 provincial

Oliser Asia Ink cartridge, ink refill, printer ink machines, ink refill franchise

The main thrust of this company is to offer clients or consumers affordable yet high quality ink refilling services using state of the art machine operated Oliser ink refilling technology. To meet this objective and seeing the opportunity to replicate their experience with other partners, they established Oliser Business Systems Inc., the company that will handle their business partners or franchisees.

Franchise fee: P150,000

Franchise package: P388,000 including machine, training, uniform, initial supplies

Peanut world

Peanut World was established in 1996 when the peanut loving owners noticed a small store selling nuts and the customers that crowded it. Seeing this trend, they researched on the business, thus their first cart was born in Ever Gotesco Grand Central (They were called JM Nuts and Hot Castañs then). The first store's success led to more carts in SM Supermalls under the trade name JM Peanut World.

There are 21 outlets of Peanut World, five are held by franchisees and 16 are company-owned.

Projected initial investment:

- Initial/ franchise fee - P100,000
- Cart - P60,000
- Equipment - P1,800
- Cashiering supplies - P350
- Cleaning supplies - P170
- Allowances of trainees during the initial training - P1,120 (P160.00 x 7)
- Employees' uniform - P480
- Initial inventory - P11,280
- Initial operating capital - P4,800

Tea Square

Tea Square was first introduced in 2004 as a retail cart serving all-natural iced teas. From their first outlet in Alabang Town Center, it now has 21 stores nationwide including three outlets in Cebu City, and one outlet each in Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Iloilo and General Santos City. Tea Square continues to open an average of one new store every month.

Tea Square has an established logistics distribution system to ensure the timely deliveries of raw materials and supplies to all Tea Square outlets nationwide. Their partners in providing excellent and accurate distribution system include Cebu Pacific Air for air freight and WG&A Shipping for sea freight.

Tea Square offers two retail business models depending on available space for lease:

1. Tea Square Iced Tea Bar (cart/kiosk operations): P325,000
2. Tea Square Zen Café (full-service operations): P3.3 million

BibingKinitan

Encouraged by its great success, BibingKinitan was established in April 2006, two years after Tea Square. BibingKinitan is the group's second brand catering to mass-based consumers seeking high-quality rice cakes, effectively offering great value for money.

After one year of successful operations, BibingKinitan now has 20 outlets in Luzon and continues to open an average of three new outlets every month. BibingKinitan! Mini Bibingka will be available all-year-round and will be served freshly baked through traditional, old-fashioned methods which the customers can see being prepared.

BibingKinitan! offers three retail business models depending on available space for lease:

1. Cart operations: P250,000
2. Kiosk/counter operations: P350,000
3. Roadside/in-line store operations: P400,000

Holy Kettle Corn

The Holy Kettle Corn phenomenon began on May 17, 2004 when owners Derrick and Aris discussed popcorn. Derrick had stumbled upon this age-old flavor in a San Francisco flea market, and knowing that the Philippine market was being flooded with artificially flavored and adulterated snack foods, it needed an alternative source of natural consumer products. On that same day, the Blue Kettle project was born.

The duo then set up the business, designed concepts, picked colors, hired people and tweaked flavors. Aris came up with the brand name "Holy Kettle Corn!"

On July 16, Holy Kettle Corn started popping.

Branches across the Philippines comes in different forms and sizes. There are cart types, counter stalls and free standing kiosks, built to conform to the landlords' specifications. Major equipment are a kettle machine and a sifter made from food grade stainless steel.

Franchise fee: P596,475

Superb Shanghai Siomai Store

The owners started the business by selling frozen meat products like siomai and shark's fin dumplings to neighbors, friends and relatives. It was a backyard business known only to close friends and relatives.

Over time, buyers have been encouraging the owners to set up a retail store and sell the products on a commercial scale. Encouraged by the increasing demand and market acceptance of their products, they ventured into cold stores and wet markets. Eventually, they opened several outlets along different commercial establishments to be able to serve more customers.

Investment package:

P165, 000 for indoor carts and P185,000 for outdoor carts.

This includes one unit Shanghai Siomai indoor cart, chest freezer, steamer, initial inventory worth P6,000, central purchasing, training and opening assistance.

Tax implications of selling your house

By Alfredo C. Ligon III and Jose A. Osana
SGV & Co.

SELLING YOUR HOUSE COULD EITHER mean that you are moving up in the world or moving down to the slums. In any case, you should take time to know the tax implications of your residential upgrade or downgrade as the case may be.

TAX-FILES
SGV&Co.

Capital gains tax

If you are not engaged in the real estate business, you will not need to pay income tax or value-added tax on the sale of your house. You will, however, need to pay capital gains tax (CGT), a tax imposed on gains realized by a seller from his sale or disposal of capital assets located in the Philippines.

Under our Tax Code, you are always presumed to gain from the sale of real property that you hold as a capital asset. This includes your residence, which is real property that you do not use in your trade or business. A final tax of 6 percent will therefore be imposed on the gross selling price of your residence or its fair market value at the time of the sale whichever is higher and regardless of whether or not you actually gained from the sale.

CGT on the sale of real property is therefore generally inescapable. Even if you sell your property at a loss, where your selling price is lower than your acquisition cost, you would still be presumed to have gained from the sell and will thus be liable to pay CGT.

Exemption from paying CGT

But don't pull the trigger on your tax payment just yet.

Our Tax Code exempts you from paying CGT specifically on the sale of your principal residence, if you use the proceeds of the sale to buy or build yourself a new principal residence within 18 months from the date of the sale.

In such case, you will have to notify the BIR of your intention to avail of the tax exemption within 30 days from the date your property is sold. If in case you do not fully utilize the proceeds of the sale of your old residence to buy or build a new house then you will still have to pay CGT, but only on the unutilized portion of the gain presumed to have been realized from sale.

For example, if you sell your condominium unit for P10 million on April 1, 2007 and intend to buy a house on or before Oct. 1, 2007, you should notify the BIR of your intention to use the proceeds of the sale to buy your new house by May 1, 2007 which is 30 days from the date you sell your condominium unit. This will entitle you to avail of the exemption from CGT.

If you actually use all P10 million to buy your new house by Oct. 1, 2007, then you won't have to pay CGT. If, however, you use only P7 million of your P10 million proceeds to buy your new house, then you will be liable for CGT but only on the unutilized portion of the proceeds of the sale.

The final tax of 6 percent will then be imposed only on the P3-million difference between the selling price of your condominium unit and the purchase price of your new house.

This exemption can be availed of once every 10 years.

'Principal residence'

Under BIR Revenue Regulations No. 14-00, your "Principal Residence" is your dwelling house and the land on which it is situated. It is where you and the members of your family permanently reside.

Is the buyer required to do anything?

Under BIR Revenue Regulations No. 17-03, when you sell your principal residence, your buyer is obligated to withhold from you CGT equivalent to 6 percent of the gross selling price of your property or its fair market value at the time of the sale whichever is higher.

This will be deposited in cash or by manager's check in an interest-bearing account with an Authorized Agent Bank (AAB) of the BIR, and an Escrow Agreement will be executed among yourself as seller, your buyer, the concerned BIR Revenue District Officer (RDO) and the AAB to the effect that the amount deposited, including its interest yield, will only be released to you if the RDO certifies that the proceeds of the sale of your principal residence were in fact utilized to buy or build a new principal residence within 18 calendar months from date of the sale.

The date of sale of your property refers to the date that the document evidencing the transfer of said property, i.e., deed of absolute sale, etc. was notarized.

Escrow agreement

An "escrow agreement" is an agreement to have an act performed after the fulfillment of a certain condition. In the sale of your principal residence, the CGT withheld from you by your buyer and deposited with the AAB will be released after the RDO certifies that the proceeds of the sale of your principal residence were in fact utilized to buy or build a new principal residence within 18 calendar months from the date of the sale.

What happens if you don't utilize the proceeds of the sale to buy or build a new principal residence within 18 months from the sale?

You have 30 days from the lapse of 18 months from the sale of your old residence to submit documentary evidence showing that you have utilized the proceeds of sale or disposition of your old principal residence to buy or build your new principal residence.

If you do not submit such documents by the end of this period, you shall be treated as deficient in the payment of CGT on the sale of your principal residence and shall be accordingly assessed for deficiency CGT, inclusive of penalties and 20-percent interest per annum computed from the 31st day after the date of sale of the said principal residence, pursuant to the provisions of the Tax Code.

If your deficiency tax assessment becomes final and executory, the deposit in escrow, inclusive of its interest earnings, will be forfeited and applied against your deficiency CGT liability.

If the deposit is insufficient to cover the entire amount assessed, then you will remain liable for the remaining balance of the assessment. On the other hand, any excess in the amount deposit in escrow will be returned to you by the AAB upon written authorization from the Commissioner or his duly authorized representative.

What documents do you have to submit to show that you utilized the proceeds of sale or disposition of your old principal residence to buy or build a new principal residence?

Under Revenue Regulations No. 14-00, you must submit the following documents to the RDO concerned:

(a) A sworn statement that the total proceeds from the sale or disposition of your old principal residence has been actually utilized in the acquisition or construction of your new principal residence;

(b) A certified statement from your architect or engineer, or both, showing the cost of materials and labor for the construction work;

(c) A certified copy of the building permit; and

(d) In case your new principal address is acquired by purchase, a duplicate original copy of the Deed of Absolute Sale.

You can do yourself a favor by referring to the above guidelines when making your big transfer.

25 lessons from 25 years ...

From page B2-1

buy ads. They buy products and services.

11. Love your agency as yourself since you gave the brief and approved the airing.

12. You can't do everything at once. Prioritize among the 4Ps (e.g., do I make a better quality product for consumers or spend more on talent fees), between ATL & BTL, Production & Media, between Consumer Promotions & Trade Deals.

Thorough qualification

13. Do not launch new products/line extensions/flankers without thorough qualification of the full mix. Avoid "Bahala Na" marketing because it will demoralize the sales force and ruin your credibility with the trade and consumers.

14. Upon execution, practice integrated marketing communications or the "One Sight-One Sound" principle to maximize "bang-for-the buck"; maintain message consistency for consumers and avoid confusing people, including yourselves.

15. Do not dilute your brand's equity by proliferating line extensions that are strategically inconsistent with a brand's positioning.

Perishable

16. Do not be overconfident and complacent as to underestimate your competitors because success is perishable.

17. Do not overintellectualize your message and advertising. Follow the KISS principle=Keep It Simple yet Smart for the sales, the trade and your consumers.

18. Do not waste precious A&P with weak advertising and excessive media spending, "wallpaper" displays, illegible merchandising and run-of-the-mill promotions.

19. Do not harm your brand by coming up with "quick fixes."

20. Do not give trade deals just to get quick sales because deals are addictive like drugs and constitutes "bribery" of the trade.

21. Do not be self-righteous as to ignore suggestions or reject criticisms, because most are well-intentioned.

No to greedy

22. Do not be greedy as to promote excessive consumption of your product because that will tend to create a backlash.

23. Do not blame others for any failure since the buck stops with marketing—whether it's a lousy ad, a product/package defect, poor availability, material run-out, ill-timed price hike, liquidity crunch, etc. The consumer doesn't care. S/he sees, knows and remembers only the brand/company, and if ultimately the consumer IS the "boss," then marketing owns the privilege of being his/her "direct report."

24. Do not pretend to be who you're not, as consumers will see through you as a "phony" and this applies as much to brands as it does to people. Be yourself.

Too important

25. Indeed, marketing is vital for any company, but precisely because of this, you must accept that marketing is too important to be left only to marketing people.

(The author won the Agora Award for Marketing Excellence in Asia-Pacific in 2000. He is a professorial lecturer at the UP College of Business Administration and UA&P-CRC. He can be reached at willyarcilla@yahoo.com.)

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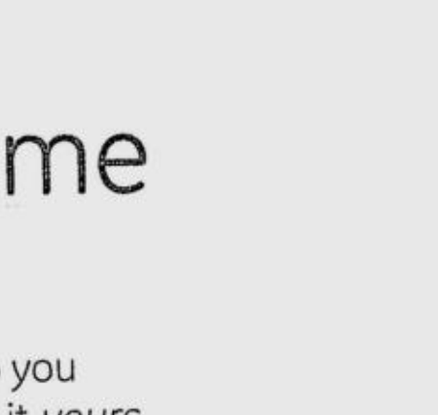


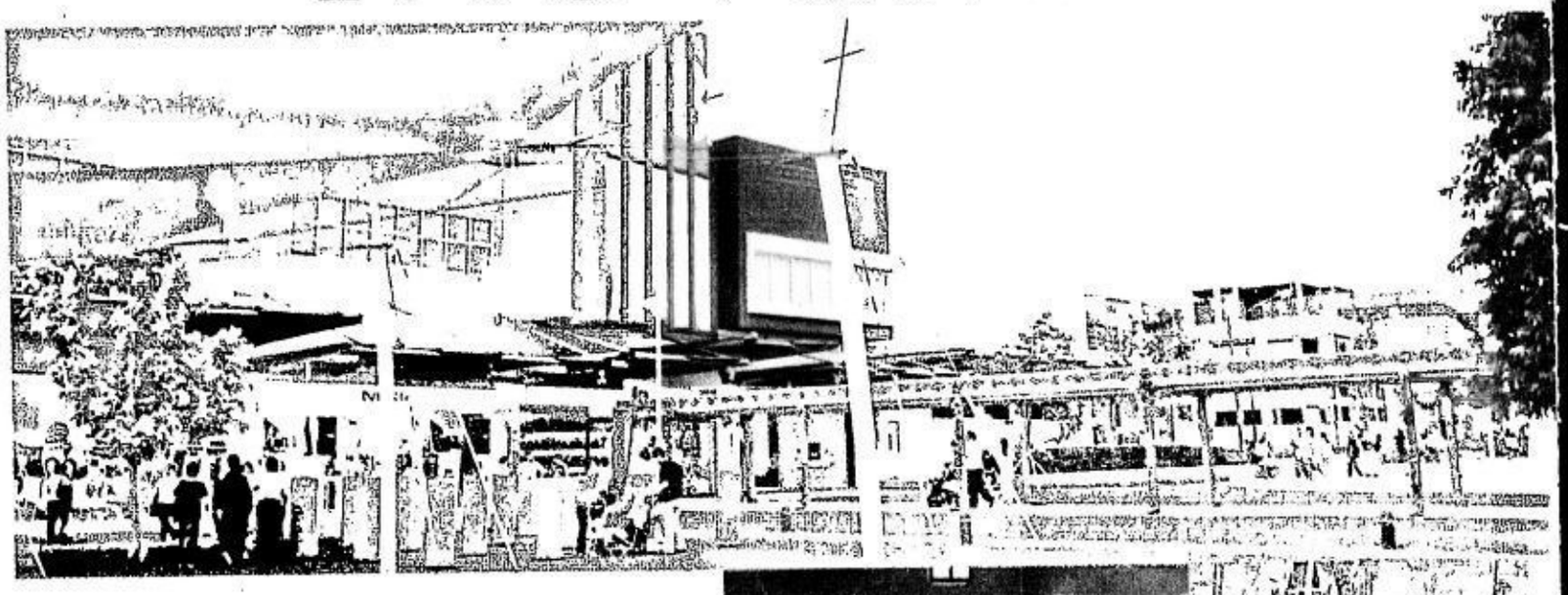
*Model: PTV12SATRSS 0.36 m³ (12 cu. ft.)
Stainless Steel Top Mount Refrigerator
See flyers for details
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2203 Series of 2007

GE imagination at work

ONE Serendra

THRIVE IN FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

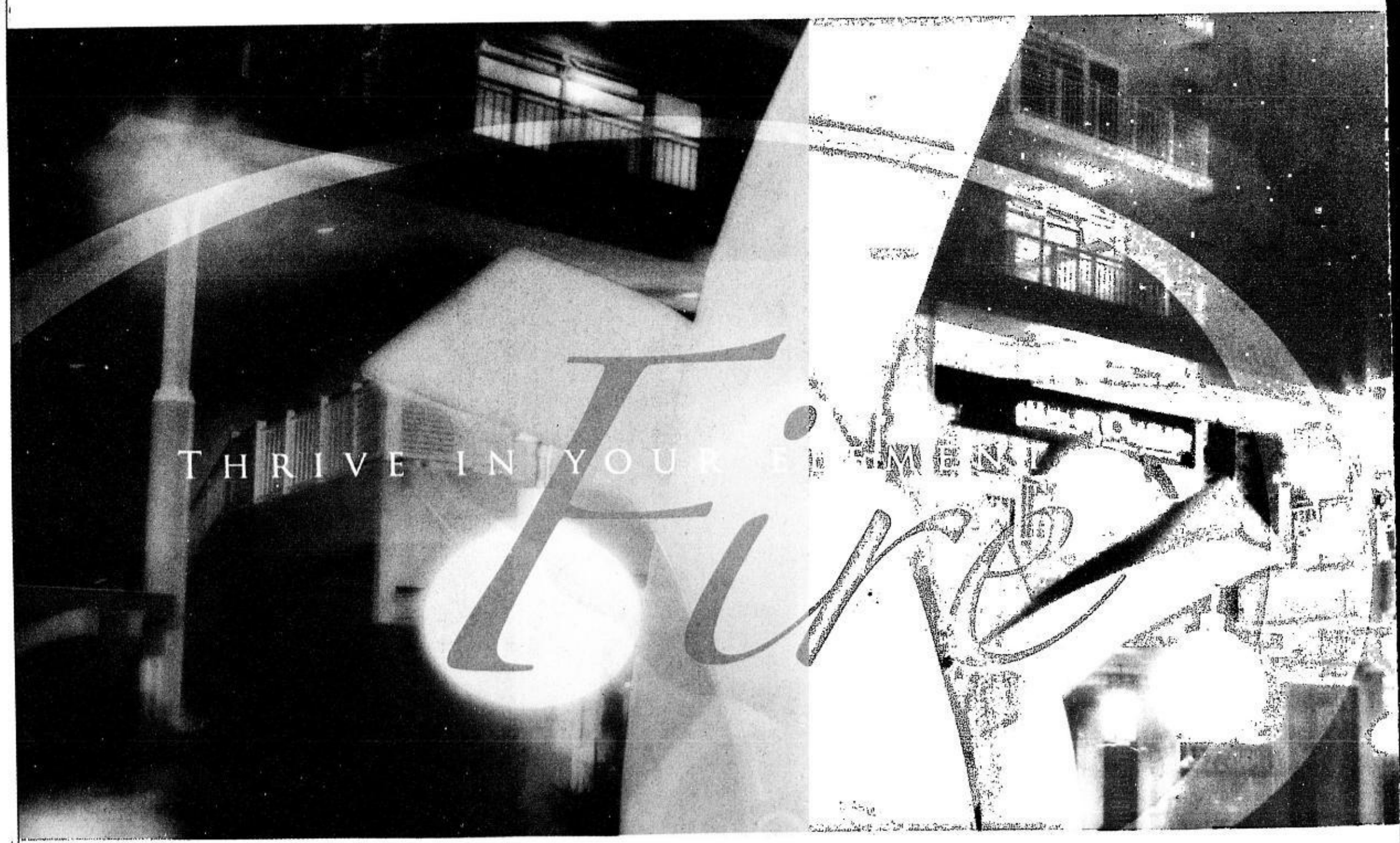
Amid today's dizzying culture of concrete malls and shopping centers in the metro emerges a refreshing family-friendly concept in retail and entertainment lifestyle—Bonifacio High Street. This kilometer-long stretch of verdant lawns, winner-brand shops, and second floor office spaces is the heart of the City Center masterplan of Bonifacio Global City—the emerging business district of the future that is seen to provide the most ideal options for work, life, and play in the metropolis. The most exciting part of the burgeoning lifestyle in Bonifacio Global City is the possibility of living right in the middle of it all—at One Serendra, no less, the most spacious and lowest-density residential development within Bonifacio Global City.



The unique living experience begins at Bonifacio High Street, where exciting international brands abound, such as CK Underwear, Springfield, Nike, Charles and Keith, Kenneth Cole, and hard-to-find hip brands such as United Colors of Benetton, Puma, Von Dutch, Mizuno and The Natural Source. Who can forget the famous pioneer branch of Krispy Kreme? Families will enjoy all the other familiar cafes, restaurants, and establishments here at this sprawling open air complex, together with the distinctive public art, water features and play areas especially for children.

The most exciting part of the burgeoning lifestyle in Bonifacio Global City is the possibility of living right in the middle of it all—at One Serendra

From the sprawling spaces and wide skyline at Bonifacio High Street, the Shops at Serendra provides a more quaint multicultural experience, with its cozy storefronts and intimate dining places offering a world of flavors. It is an important facet of the overall Bonifacio High Street retail and leisure lifestyle. Indeed, metro denizens have hailed Shops at Serendra as the most important destination these days for a one-of-a-kind, revolutionary entertainment and lifestyle experience. Word of mouth and numerous editorial pages have been devoted to spread the news of the exciting flavors of Abe, Portico, Hossein's, Thai at Silk, Guava, and Mezza Luna. Newly

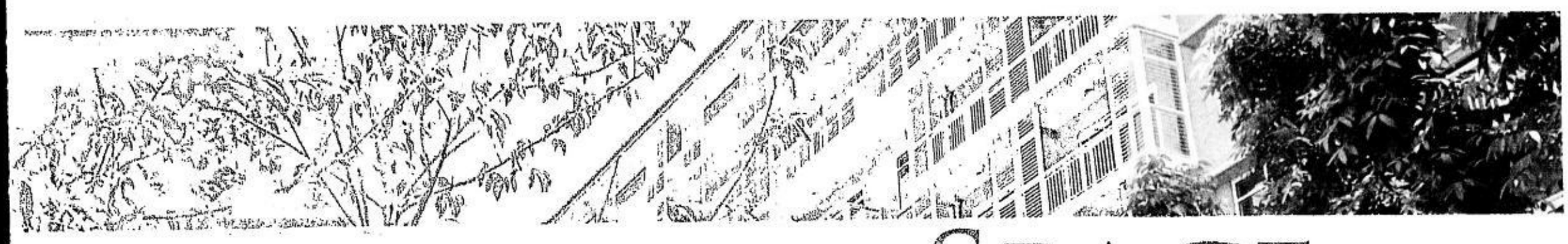


Radiant possibilities at Bonifacio Global City

One Serendra sparks up the senses with its access to the radiant City Center of Bonifacio Global City. A fusion of flavors and cultures blazes with life at the Shops at Serendra, Bonifacio High Street, and Market!Market!, igniting your nights with colorful dining and shopping choices. Expert masterplanning provides proximity to prestigious health and educational institutions, as well as future top financial and commercial districts. With the pulse of the metropolis literally just a few steps away from your spacious sanctuary, life at One Serendra radiates endless possibilities for gracious suburban living in the city.

CALL **(632) 848 5000** EMAIL **ask@ayalalandpremier.com** VISIT **www.oneserendra.com**

Visit the model units at the Serendra Pavilion, 26th Street, Bonifacio Global City, everyday from 9am to 8pm. HLURB LTS: 10412, 10464, 14646, and 16664



AND LUXURY OF SPACE

opened restos such as Chelsea continue to draw in discriminating patrons.

Cupcakes by Sonja, Mary Grace Café, Miss Desserts and Kape Isla have formed cult followings for merienda and coffee breaks. For wine connoisseurs, Barolo is the best for a quick nightcap with friends.

condominium units to complement the airiness and limitless possibilities that the overall Bonifacio Global City lifestyle affords. A home at One Serendra will best create the ease of suburban living to match the laidback and soothing rhythm of social life in this business district of the future. This is made possible through One Serendra's low-density atmosphere.

with its sprawling open spaces and a pedestrian atmosphere that is conducive to relaxing strolls, window shopping, and mingling with friends—you can seamlessly transition and easily retreat back into your spacious sanctuary of a home at One Serendra. And with the first phase of One Serendra units scheduled to be turned over very soon, the first few

From the sprawling spaces and wide skyline at Bonifacio High Street, the Shops at Serendra provides a more quaint multicultural experience, with its cozy storefronts and intimate dining places offering a world of flavors.

Home furnishing shops such as Padua, Habi Home, Isa Casa, Hermle Clocks, and Durrani carpets provide discriminating homeowners the most tasteful choices in interior design, while unique finds in fashion and accessories await shoppers at Peppered Cherry, Luna, and Mantra. There are even service shops such as Nail Tropics nail spa, Bench Fix, Blow-Up Babies, and BPI for daily conveniences, especially for the future residents of One Serendra.

In terms of living spaces in this prime location, only One Serendra offers the most generously sized

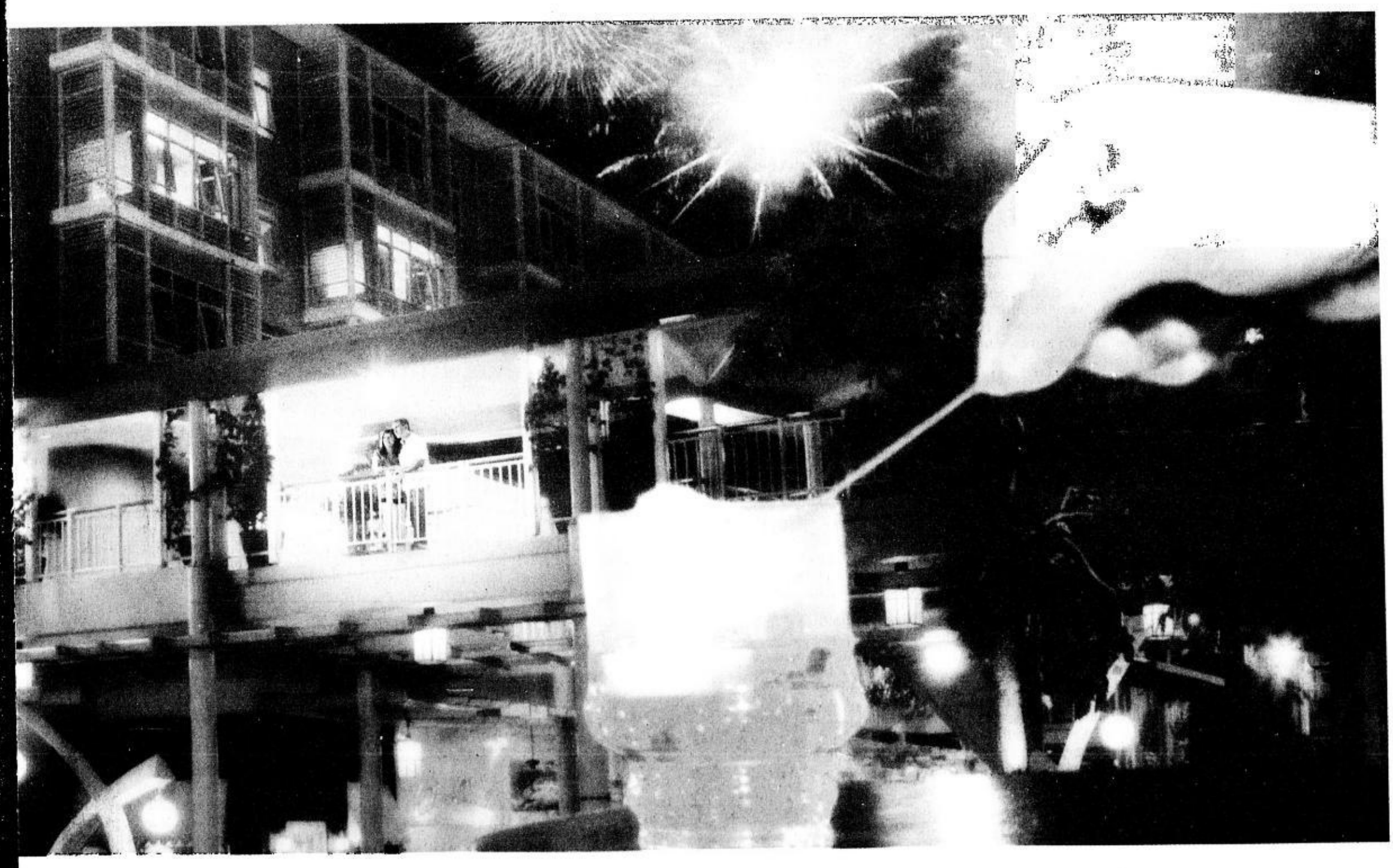
Simply put, residents will find themselves sharing space or amenities with fewer people at any given time. It is condominium living redefined in the graciousness of suburban terms—freedom of movement and luxury of space, and privacy for both families and individuals, most especially children.

The good life is now indeed at Bonifacio Global City, and with a home at One Serendra, all these possibilities for leisure and entertainment are literally just beyond the doorstep. From the world of Bonifacio High Street and Shops at Serendra—

homeowners will be the luckiest ones in immediately enjoying this revolutionary lifestyle in the city—a redefinition of the metropolitan high life through the accessible comforts of a spacious condominium home within a green, suburban sanctuary.

It's not yet too late to be part of the authentic, gracious suburban community offered by One Serendra. Call 848-5000 or e-mail ask@ayalalandpremier.com, or visit www.oneserendra.com.

AyalaLandPremier



ONE Serendra

People, Events & Products

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Editor Aries Espinosa

SM Bowling Center opens at the Mall of Asia

SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT MERGE with the recent opening of the new SM Bowling Center at the Mall of Asia. The exciting new bowling center will not only be a venue of world-class tournaments, but also a place where family members and friends can hang around for good food and great billiards.

No less than SM Group founder and chair Henry Sy Sr, himself a bowling enthusiast, graced the opening of the new bowling center together with his wife Felicidad. He shared honors in the simple ribbon-cutting ceremony with Philippine Bowling Congress President Steve Hontiveros, SM Prime Holdings president Hans Sy, and SM VP for leisure Ric Camaligan.

Designed by Australian-based Architect's EAT, the new bowling center is elevated to a whole new level of dynamic entertainment. It is a place for the serious enthusiast as well as a casual bowling session with one's barkada, officemates, and family members.

With its 32 bowling lanes with the state-of-the-art plasma monitors and Italy's cutting edge scoring system, the center goes beyond bowling. It is also a great place for billiards, karaoke, live sports viewing, and dining at Sunset Boulevard, which is run by Aruba Bar and Restaurant.

SM founder and chair Henry Sy Sr (with Mrs Sy) leads the ribbon-cutting ceremonies. With him are SM Prime Holdings president Hans Sy (right), SM VP for leisure Ric Camaligan (left), and PBC president Steve Hontiveros (2nd from right).

Ergonomically designed furniture and brightly colored décor provide an array of public and private spaces for bowling and other activities. Love organic benches in the main hall are gracefully sculptured, yet so comfortable for bowlers. Couches on the bowling sette are provided for a lounge feel, making it possible for bowlers to relax and have snacks in between games.

The new SM Bowling Center is located at the Ground Floor of the Entertainment Mall of the SM Mall of Asia.

ATENEO BASEBALL TEAM PALARONG PAMBANSA CHAMPS

Ateneo's grade school baseball team, representing NCR, emerged champions in the elementary division of the recent Palarong Pambansa in Koronadal. In the finals, the boys, aged 11-12, outscored the home team, CRAA XII, 6-1, to finish the competition undefeated. Standing, from left are: Randy Dizer, head coach; Waqui Silvestre; Diego Tanchuling; Miggy Santos; Junjun Capistrano, Ateneo marketing director; SJ San Juan; Renzo Ramos; Carlo Villarin; Bubut Dizer, assistant coach. At the front row are EJ Gesmundo; JP Cabigon; Miguel Reyes; Ryan Abis; Miguel Tan; Kevin Villa; Miguel Dumlao, and Gino Aganon. Pioneer Insurance was the team insurer.

NESTLE'S 'PAIR-FECT' DUO

Sam Concepcion and Karel Marquez grace the program during the launch of Nestle's 'Pair-fect Duo Adventure' at the Glorietta Activity Center June 9 and 10.

Ateneo appoints new MBA dean

ALBERTO L. BUENVIAJE WAS appointed dean of the Ateneo Graduate School of Business (AGSB) effective July 1. Prior to his appointment, Buenviaje was Associate Dean for four years and had been a professor of Strategic Management and Economics in AGSB. Buenviaje has a wide range of corporate experience, having been CEO, COO and/or director of various companies involved in banking, mining, real estate, health care, food and preneed.

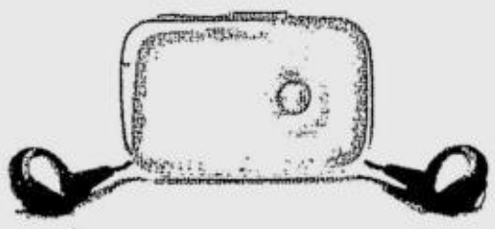
BUENVIAJE

Buenviaje is an AB Economics and MBA graduate of Ateneo De Manila University. He has attended various executive programs both here and abroad in the areas of strategic thinking, finance, investments and the strategic management of universities.

His goal is to make the Ateneo Graduate School of Business a major player in the Asian MBA market. In the last CHED-Fape assessment of MBA schools in the Philippines, AGSB was ranked no. 1. It is also the recipient of the Thomas Kennedy Award for excellence in the delivery of its Executive MBA program, a joint project between AGSB and Regis University (USA).

Zen Stone incorporates personality, style, music

CAN WE ACTUALLY INCORPORATE OUR style, our taste in music, and our personality in one very small gadget? This question was answered during the Creative Zen Stone product launching held June 18 at Tropezz Bar and Resto in Greenbelt 3. Headed by Eddie Yap and Mack Hee from Singapore, the Creative Labs team showcased how this music player could turn a simple and dull day into an ecstatic and active one. With activities like Name-That-Tune and Under-The-Chair-Surprise, the team was able to get the guests attention towards the new product.



The Zen Stone, the incredibly small gadget with an incredible sound and incredible price, is the newest product of Creative Labs. It comes in four different colors: black, white, pink and blue; all of which are available here in the Philippines. These Stones can definitely match your personality. It has a capacity of 1 GB that can save up to more than 500 songs. It weighs 18.5 grams but its battery capacity can last for 10 continuous hours. Creative Zen Stone uses a USB2.0 so you can easily store both MP3 and WMA formats; but can also save any kind of PC file to your Creative Zen Stone.

There are also added accessories for your Zen Stone: First is Zen Stone Skin with clip that allows you to clip your Zen Stone to your belt, shirt or bag for added design and for hands-free music enjoyment anywhere, anytime; The Zen Stone Skin with clip is available in five gorgeous translucent colors: red, yellow, pink, blue and smoky black. Next is the Zen Stone Armband with Skin. It is more ideal for people that have active lifestyles. Enjoy your workout with your favorite tunes. And the third is the Zen Stone Keychain Case that keeps your Zen Stone and your keys accessible in one handy pouch. With these accessories you can definitely wear your music in style.

Folfox4 after surgery improves cancer survival

FOLFOX4, AN ELOXATIN (OXALIPLATIN INjection)-based chemotherapy regimen, significantly improved the overall survival (OS) of patients with surgically resected stage III colon cancer when compared to standard chemotherapy (5-FU/LV), according to the six-year survival analysis of the Mosaic study presented June 3 at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (Asco) in Chicago, Illinois.

The updated analysis of the study's primary endpoint (3-year disease free survival (DFS), including stage II and stage III patients), confirms the benefit of Folfox4 versus 5-FU/LV alone at 5 years.

The Mosaic data demonstrate that stage III colon cancer patients, treated after complete surgical resection of the tumor with Eloxatin in combination with infusional 5-FU/LV, had a significant 20-percent reduction in the risk of dying after a median of six years than those treated with 5-FU/LV alone.

"For decades, the standard of care for colon cancer patients has been 5-FU/LV. This is the first time that the addition of another agent, Eloxatin, to standard 5FU/LV-based chemotherapy has shown a significant survival advantage in the adjuvant treatment of stage III colon cancer patients. We have looked forward to these results since we presented the primary analysis from this study at Asco in 2003 and subsequently published it in the New England Journal of Medicine," said the principal investigator Professor Aimery de Gramont, Oncology department, Hospital Saint Antoine, Paris, France. "This is important news since it supports the disease-free and overall survival."

He added Eloxatin, used in combination with infusional 5-FU/LV, is indicated in the United States and in Europe for the adjuvant (post-surgical) treatment of stage III colon cancer patients who have their primary tumors surgically removed. The indication is based on the improvement in disease-free survival seen in the Mosaic trial. At the time of the original analysis, there was no demonstrated benefit in overall survival after a median follow-up of four years. Eloxatin in combination with infusional 5-FU/LV is also indicated for the treatment of advanced colorectal cancer.

The Mosaic study was conducted in 148 centers in 20 countries and supported by sanofi-aventis. In this multi-center trial, 2,246 patients with stage II or stage III colon cancer whose tumor had been completely surgically removed randomly received 5-FU/LV or Folfox4 every two weeks for 12 cycles. The primary endpoint evaluated how the addition of Eloxatin affected DFS. Final DFS, at five-year follow up, are consistent with earlier results.

Results for patients with stage II disease did not show a significant advantage with Folfox4 in terms of disease-free or overall survival.

The most frequently reported side effect was neutropenia (decrease in the number of white blood cells) in 79 percent of patients, but this was severe (grade 3/4) in 41 percent of patients and complicated by fever or infection in only 1.8 percent of cases. Among patients (92 percent) experiencing peripheral sensory neuropathy ("tingling or numbness" in the fingers or toes), it was severe in 12 percent of patients, and partial or total recovery was observed in almost all cases within 18 months following treatment.

Colorectal cancer is a leading cause of death. Every year, about 1 million new cases of colorectal cancer are diagnosed worldwide. About 381,000 new cases are detected in Europe and 150,000 in the United States. According to the American Cancer Society, colorectal cancer is the third leading cause of cancer-related death in the States, accounting for about 10 percent of all cancer deaths. Over a lifetime, about 1 in 18 people develop colorectal cancer, and more than 52,000 people are expected to die from it in the States this year. In Europe, 204,000 people die from colorectal cancer each year.

'Living Colors' exhibit celebrates beauty of life

SHARP COLORS, UNPARAlleled image quality, and precisely rendered details distinguish a true work of art. This is also what HP Original Supplies offer to customers, whether they're printing a few pages for personal use or a large number of copies for their professional needs.

HP Original Supplies' Best Choices Portfolio offers a range of product options that respond to the varied printing needs of different types of customers. This rollout is supported by a new retail strategy that aims to simplify the process of choosing and buying printing supplies, resulting in an enhanced customer experience.

"HP's commitment to innovation and market leadership has led to the development of a wide range of options across its product lines, providing the power of choice to end-users for any variety of needs," said Rajesh Tibrewala, consumer and supplies sales and marketing director for HP in Southeast Asia. "These innovations are backed by HP's over 20 years of worldwide leadership in inkjet and laser printing."

HP celebrated the vibrant colors of life as it launched its new Original Supplies portfolio with an exhibit of digital art and photography by some of today's trailblazing visual artists. The beauty of their works came vividly to life through HP's wide range of quality ink cartridges and printing supplies, and even the guests at the event also had a chance to create their own artworks in full living color.

Professional photographer Dan Cercado and digital art virtuosos Electrolychee were the featured artists at the HP "Living Colors" exhibit. Cercado is a veteran digital photographer, with a portfolio ranging from event photography to travel and nature shoots. Bernie Sim and Marcus Nada of Electrolychee are two of the country's most innovative graphic designers, and their project roster includes album covers for some of the country's top bands and product packaging for big brands. All of the works displayed are inspired by themes from everyday life, with colors spanning the whole spectrum from warm to cool to neutral tones.

The outstanding quality of HP's original printing supplies was also showcased through a live photo shoot with a model posing in various colorful outfits. The actual prints, which accurately captured the clothes' stunning colors, were also shown during the program.

The brilliant marriage of art and technology that accompanied the unveiling of HP Original Supplies' new line of products was indeed a fitting homage to the vitality and radiance of life. Experience life's colors and images in full glory with high-quality printing supplies from HP, designed to meet all kinds of printing needs for different types of customers.

TRIP to Singapore winner (James Orlan, Speed Magazine)

RAJESH Tiberwela, Joe D'Mango, Jenny Siquioco, Gizelle Villacorta, Gordon Ong

GORDON Ong and Dan Cercado

Corporate Giveaways show ongoing

THE COUNTRY'S FOREMOST SOURCE OF business gifts, the 20th Corporate Giveaways buyers' show, is ongoing until July 7 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila, making it the Philippines' longest-running exhibit of its kind.

Corporate Giveaways was conceptualized to fill the need for a one-stop shop for suppliers and buyers of business gifts, premiums, promotional ideas, advertising specialties and merchandise incentives.

Last year, Corporate World 2006 attracted over 14,000 visitors and generated onsite over P32 million worth of business for its exhibitors. According to Raquel Romero, general manager of event organizer World Expos & Concepts Inc (Worldexco), the annual show is acknowledged as the country's unrivalled source of corporate gifts and other business requirements.

Interested visitors may register onsite during exhibit hours, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Admission is free.

Travel Café Philippines ushers in new blend in coffeeshop business

AS THE COUNTRY'S BOOMING COFFEE shop industry introduces various types of gourmet coffee and food delicacies, a newcomer in the business is ushering in an unusual blend—coffee and travel—which nevertheless also make a good market mix.

Credit it to the efforts of Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace H. Durano, whose consumer marketing campaign has given birth to Travel Café Philippines, a new brand that brings the coffee shop business to a higher level in the field of tourism promotion.

Durano led the Department of Tourism in conceptualizing and putting up Travel Café Philippines as a direct marketing tool in Japan through the help of Japanese partner Travel Café Co. Ltd.

Durano chose Iidabashi, Tokyo, as the site for the café because of its huge volume of consumer traffic.

Themed coffeeshop

The 70-seat café is Japan's first themed coffeeshop to be dedicated to a single country destination. And it began attracting hordes of customers on the first day when it opened in July last year.

The café is aimed at providing Japanese customers with a sampling of the now famous "Premium Resort Islands Philippines" experience in terms of exotic Filipino food and beverages, culture, and a nature-inspired ambiance highlighted by Philippine-made furniture and furnishings.

And with its vast collection of travel references—from books to videos shown on plasma screens and Filipino compositions as background music—the café serves as a perfect venue for making travel plans to the Philippines.

"Visitors, mostly Japanese women, at the Travel Café Philippines enjoy the feeling of being on a trip across the archipelago in a relaxing atmosphere," Durano explains.

Top ranking

Barely three weeks after its opening, Travel Café Philippines has already been ranked number one among Asian cafés and restaurants in Tokyo. The top rating came from major Japanese restaurant and café website www.tabelog.com.

Since then, Travel Café Philippines has been generating travel bookings and inquiries from its ever-increasing number of Japanese customers. Following this unprecedented success in Japan, Travel Café Philippines has evolved into a global business model.

Now the Department of Tourism is bringing Travel Café Philippines here and introducing it to the local market through the Franchise Expo 2007, according to the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA), the event organizer.

Unique concept

PFA chair Bing S. Limjoco says Travel Café Philippines will be among the unique business concepts that will be featured at the expo, especially for their adaptability to the global market.

"In fact, the TCP (Travel Café Philippines) will open also in priority foreign markets identified by the DOT," Limjoco adds. This includes Korea, China, Singapore, Australia, Germany and Russia.

"Nonetheless, the Travel Café Philippines that will open in Makati will be the model TCP," Limjoco explains, quoting project director Rosvi C. Gaetos, deputy executive director of the Philippine Convention and Visitors Corp.

Multisensory experience

"Offering multisensory experience and unique cultural flavor that encourage tourism, TCP thus becomes a new marketing medium for the Philippines' tourism brand. "It is a lifestyle venue cutting across such high-income market segments as corporate executives, career women, young professionals and senior citizens. At the same time, it is a convergence of consumer marketing ideas where both the medium and the message are one in going beyond the usual," Limjoco points out.

"Such innovation is also present in many other business concepts that the PFA will showcase at the Franchise Expo 2007. These include Tokyo Tokyo, Annabel Lee Gourmet Restaurant, Felisa Facial & Body Spa, Limcoma, Center for Aesthetic Studies, The Generics Pharmacy, 3DME and Preppy, among others," Limjoco adds.

TRAVEL Café Philippines in Tokyo: Perfect smell and venue for attracting foreigners to visit the country

PR must be a positive force

By Rene Nieva

PUBLIC RELATIONS OR PR HAS COME A long way in the world including here in the Philippines. Pioneered in this country after World War II by the likes of Joe Carpio and Pete Teodoro, PR has grown to become a major service industry.

More companies than ever before, private as well as government, maintain either an internal PR office, retain an external PR counsel or agency, or hire PR firms for specific short-term projects.

The number of companies offering PR or PR-related services has increased considerably, especially in the last two decades. The total revenues of the industry should now be in the hundreds of millions and the number of people employed in the industry or in industries allied to it is now in the tens of thousands.

And yet, despite all the big strides the PR profession has made, it is, to a large extent, an unknown commodity among many Filipinos. What is bothersome is when even top executives of large organizations themselves do not know what exactly PR is and what it can do not just for their firm but for the community and the country as a whole.

Important role

This lack of knowledge and understanding of PR is regrettable considering the important role PR has assumed in the world today. The worldwide explosion in mass communications, particularly in electronic media and the Internet, has made it possible for public opinion to be expressed and disseminated easily, quickly and widely. Thus, generating public awareness, understanding and support has become critical to the successful and continued operation of any company, whether in the public or the private sector.

In order to gain broad public support for its endeavors, an organization must be perceived as promoting not only its interest but the broader and greater interest of the public as well.

In recent years there have been many PR projects undertaken by companies that have succeeded not just in refurbishing their image or gaining acceptance for their products or services but also in promoting some worthy causes and achieving some desirable social objectives.

Read to lead

I just want to mention two PR projects which Perceptions undertook in recent years to illustrate this point. One was the Read to Lead reading advocacy campaign for Pfizer's Visine eye drops which Perceptions launched in 2002 to promote reading among Filipinos especially the youth.

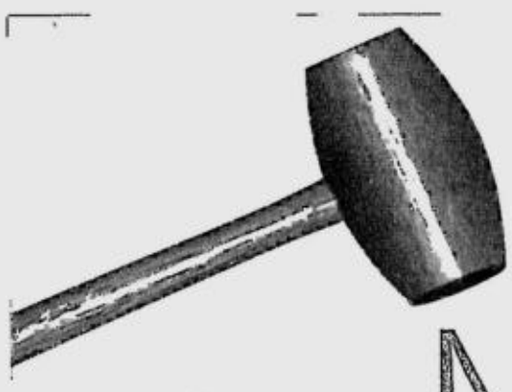
The other project was the Biyahe Tayo! domestic travel advocacy campaign, which was undertaken in 2003 for Pfizer's Bonamine, a medicine for motion sickness.

The campaign encouraged Filipinos to travel in their own country by highlighting the many beautiful places they can go to and the fun-filled activities they can enjoy in these places.

For this campaign, we produced a music video with the participation of 21 of the country's leading musical artists who waived their usual talent fees and did it for free.

The campaign, particularly the music video, appeared to have had a strong impact on millions of Filipinos. In more concrete terms, it resulted into a significant increase in the number of tourists here in the last few years.

(Rene Nieva is chairman and CEO of Perceptions, Inc., a PR agency, and a member and past chairman of the Philippine chapter of the International Public Relations Association.)



Next time, spare Junior's savings.

Too broke that you need to break your child's piggybank?
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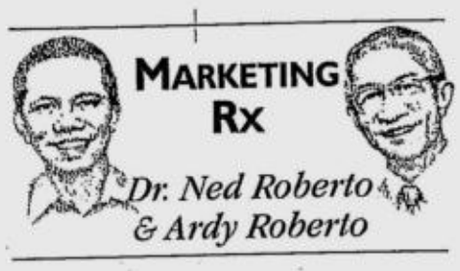
BUSINESS Friday

Integrated 'boomerang' marketing

Integrated marketing gives your campaign a life of its own

(MarketingRx continues to host Jay Conrad Levinson, bestselling author of the Guerrilla Marketing book series (more then 14 million copies sold) as our guest columnist. We'll be featuring his columns every other week until August 2007.)



WHATEVER DOES GUERRILLA MARKETING have in common with a boomerang? If you throw a stick, it flies about 30 feet. Frank Donnellan once threw a boomerang 377 feet, longer than a football field. A boomerang uses gravity and air resistance to aid its flight. Guerrilla marketing uses other weapons to aid its flight. Single-weapon marketing has nothing to aid its flight.

That's why one of the key factors in marketing today is integration. Integrated marketing gives your campaign a life of its own.

I've been reading Michael Kiely's "Marketing Globe" newsletter from Australia for a few years now. Good stuff every time.

I recently read his "An Introduction to Integrated Marketing"—which is Aussie for guerrilla marketing, and felt it had such good things that you as a guerrilla should know them. His integrated marketing coordinates efforts which in many cases are already in place. They're just yet integrated.

Boomerang integration

For example, a direct mail campaign can go just so far.

But, if during that campaign, your prospects read articles about you in the newspaper, if they've invited to a special event you're sponsoring, if they hear you interviewed on a radio talk show, if they see your ads, if they read you'll be giving a talk somewhere—that's when your direct mail campaign becomes infused with the physics of the boomerang and flies much further than it would ordinarily.

Your efforts have breathed life into it.

If your TV spots are saying one thing, and your designer came up with print ads that say something else, and your telemarketing is off on a third tangent and your direct mail is doing its own thing—that kind of non-guerrilla marketing is not integrated and it will not work.

To make these well-selected weapons operational, they all must be pulling in the same direction, saying virtually the same thing, helping to clarify instead of confuse the consumer.

Accuracy

Everything in the boomerang's flight is designed for maximum air time—and accuracy.

The incisive Mr. Kiely tells us that boomerang integration is cost-efficient, focused and comprehensive. Where possible, PR opportunities and fusion marketing should be employed. To reduce marketing costs by generating return business and referrals, a marketing database is a must.

An integrated solution to a marketing problem begins with close inspection of yourself, your target audience and your marketing environment.

Your prospect's state of mind, lifestyle and media usage are the best clues you have to which combination of tactics and weaponry will bring about maximum results. And every element of your mix should spring from and reinforce the single strategic throughout behind the campaign.

Divergent approaches baffle the prospect and put a drag on the thrust of your campaign. Without integration, you've got a shapeless stick doing battle for you. With it, you've got a sleek, aerodynamic flying machine.

What happened?

Back in the days of early advertising in the 1920s, integrated marketing was the happening thing.

From Pepsodent to Palmolive, from Pepsi to Penney's, the guerrillas of the day integrated advertising with in-store signage, sampling with "club" type memberships, sales promotions with special incentives. Even as late as the 1960s, integration was a byword of marketing.

And then, the creativity hit the fan. The creative revolution which took hold of advertising in the 1960s led advertising to become fascinated with itself and lose interest in the client's business. Building portfolios got divorced from building sales.

Awards proliferated, but most celebrated clever art and copy, not the ringing of the cash register. Hey, I saw it happen. I was there. I was appalled. I saw clients force wan smiles on their faces as they picked up first prize awards for advertising while knowing that they lost 21 percent market share and $34.6 million that year.

Creativity cult

I left advertising agencies during this reign of the creativity cult. The loony bin was indeed being run by the loonies. And I was one of them—a creative director in a creative agency. Twilight Zone. So I packed up and left.

The 1970s and 1980s were characterized by ad agencies obsessively producing ultra-expensive 30-second TV spots, and anything not related to stylish, creative TV spots was seen as unworthy. But then, in the 1990s, three things happened to bring marketers to their senses:

1. Mass media fragmented. Network TV no longer reigned supreme.
2. The mass market disintegrated. The time was ripe for niche marketing.
3. The economy decimated marketing budgets. Direct marketing grew.

Twenty years ago, 75 percent of marketing budgets went into advertising. Today, 50 percent goes into trade promotions, 25 percent to consumer promotions, and a bit less than 25 percent to advertising. Bye bye hip advertising. Howdy profits.

The result of all this by the year 2000 has been the growth of the guerrilla, the executive who brings talent and judgment to many marketing areas.

These people aren't scared of marketing, aren't intimated by media, know how to do research, realize the abundance of free weapons, and believe fervently in operating from a plan.

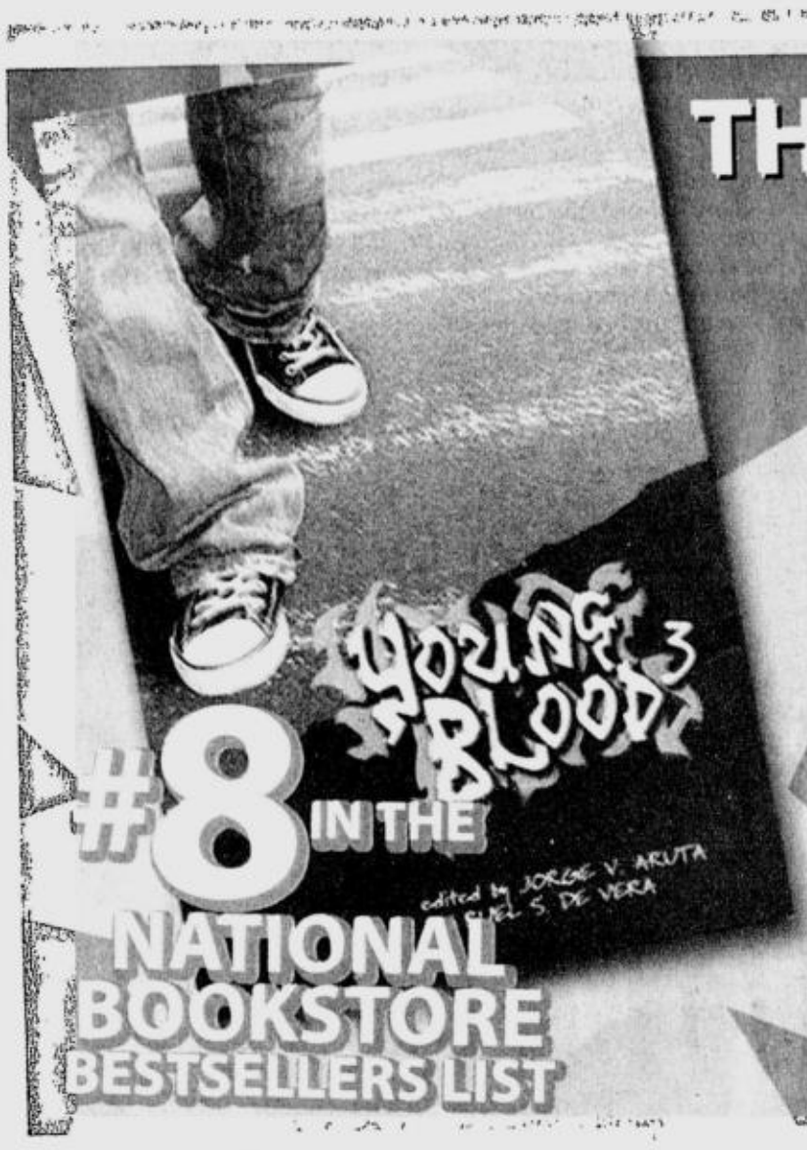
Online marketing

They're fascinated with online marketing, love the accountability of direct marketing, and are as intrigued with newsletters and customer follow-up as they are with TV.

When they use it, they spend $1,000 to produce the spot, not $200,000. When they run it, the cost is $15 in prime time, not $15,000.

Integrated marketing is the hallmark of the present and future. Great news for guerrilla marketers, but hardly what award-lovers living in the past want to hear.

(Jay Conrad Levinson is the author of the bestselling marketing series in history, "Guerrilla Marketing," plus 30 other books which have sold 14 million copies worldwide. He taught guerrilla marketing for 10 years at the University of California in Berkeley and practiced it in the United States—as SVP at J. Walter Thompson, and in Europe, as Creative Director and Board Member at Leo Burnett Advertising. E-mail Jay Levinson your questions or comments at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net.)



THE BLOOD IS BACK.

The long wait is over as the hottest local anthology returns. Youngblood³ is in the house, loaded with the best essays from 1999 to 2004 in the most concentrated Youngblood package yet. Bear witness as a generation continues its evolution. This is the Filipino youth at their most honest and most eloquent. Here are the essays that matter from the newspaper that started it all. Youngblood³ is the young Filipino—unplugged.

Featuring essays by:
Jules Alcantara / Rain Reyes / Jose Leo Lemuel G. Caparas Jr. / Cinnamon Marcelo / Rodney L. Barayuga / Rio Cobcobo / Prairie Dawn / Ron Darvin / Agnes Fidelis C. Gloria-Pinzon / Elaine P. Lim / Purple / Ann Aberin / Squire / Alex Avila / Fitz Gerard Villafuerte / Windi Remmi Mondiguing Tapawan / Pearlsha Abubakar / Biagko / Lou Albano / Angelo Hernandez / Claudette M. Llarena / Connie Gundayao / Maria del Rosario / Karen Mae V. Gican / B / Jerick T. Aguilar / Malou I. Redome / Jen Esguerra / Erin Batac / Ella Reyes / Eder S. Mutuc, M.D. / Donalyne Rasalan Lampa / Carlos Alfonso Q. Santos / Christela Cabreros / Adelfo Cyrus Alanis / Aleja F. Martinez / Zvach / Matthias / Raiza Katrina Abubakar / Jessica Brillantes / Gabriella S. Martelino / Sherie S. Sta. Cruz / Janie S. Cambri / Jonas Soltes / Jael Wenceslao / Paolo L. Azurin / Diana Emlano / Kay Stephanie Veloso / TJ / Dawn Isobel Yu Aquino / Roel A. Andag / Paolo David / Florianne Jimenez

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Edited by Jorge V. Aruta and Ruel S. De Vera

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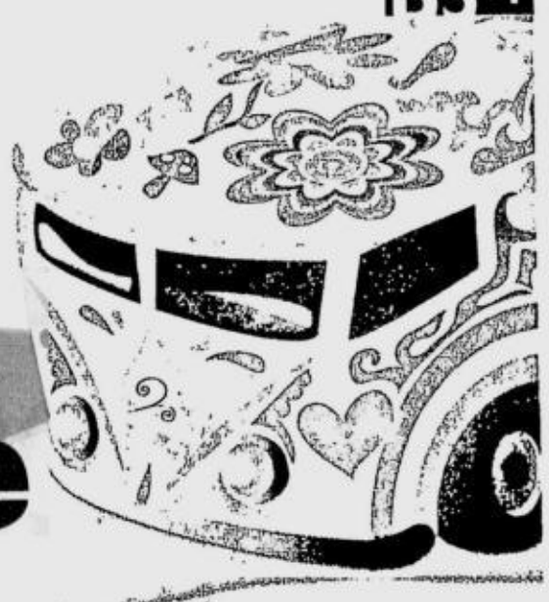
Galing Pilipino Movement

Keeping to the course



Five years since we first began. Through many hurdles and passes we have come. Battling doubt, skepticism and mediocrity, we stayed the course and kept the faith. We had 4,593 reasons to carry on. People who shared the dream and paid the price to be part of this tough but ennobling mission.

We bask in the knowledge that the rays of our Philippine sun are shining brighter with the dawning of a more affirming spirit of excellence manifesting the 'galing' of the Pilipino

Some part of the way there was mediagenic curiosity. Were we serious? We were told so many have tried to do what our mission stated and they did not get very far. They had bigger organizations, wider networks and the fiscal wherewithal. Well, we are still here and we are still tyring --- to put the focus on what is Good and 'Galing' about being Pilipino, about the Philippines and about Pilipinos... as a counter-force to the negativism, pessimism and hopelessness pervading our social psyche. We aren't out to be perfect, we're just constantly trying to be.

We salute Gawad Kalinga as the new wave of People Power. We salute the never-say-die spirit of the Everest summiteers. We salute Good News Pilipinas for its record of success at 40,000 hits/day. We salute Joshua Young and Marbin Laus, Galing Pilipino Young Leaders, who were awardees of the search for the Ten Outstanding Boy Scouts of the Philippines in 2006. Joshua joined GPM at age of 12 attending a Natural Farming Seminar in Baguio in 2002 and participating in the GP Young Leaders Camp in 2005. We salute GP youngbloods of Cagayan de Oro: Ana Katrina Lopez , Allen Paul Mellicor, Carl Jude Boo and Abram Barrameda who boldly borrowed P30,000 from their parents and school to engage in a Natural Farming pig-raising project literally on their own. They returned the loan in 5 months and made a P5,000 profit to boot. These kids have said they now want to be job providers instead of job seekers. Wow Galing!

We bask in the knowledge that the rays of our Philippine sun are shining brighter with the dawning of a more affirming spirit of excellence manifesting the 'galing' of the Pilipino. We will continue to do our share of saluting, celebrating and awarding Galing Pilipinos through the I-Gilas Awards Pro-

KEEPING/ B3-4

PRINSIPYONG Galing Pilipino

Ang galing, sa sarili manggagaling.
Kung ang galing ipamamalas,
'di ka dadatnan ng malas.
Hindi kailangang trabaho'y sikat
upang galing mo'y sumikat.
Kung paglilingkod sa kapwa
ang iyong hangarin,
kahit maliit na gawa ay kahanga-hanga rin.
Sa lahat ng bagay todo-bigay.
Hanep sa hanapbuhay.
Hangga't di sapat, 'di paaawat.
Anuman ang sumapit, tuloy sa pag-awit.
May ibang paraan pa sa nakasanayan na.
Sa trabaho, pati buong mundo saludo!

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		2004	2005	2006	3-Year Return*	3-Year & 6-Month Return**
Bond	Fixed income	7.9%	11.1%	12.0%	34.2%	35.3%
Balanced	Fixed income and stocks	19.1%	10.0%	34.3%	75.9%	104.1%
Philippine Equity	Primarily stocks	20.2%	11.3%	44.0%	92.7%	136.9%

Please note that these figures only indicate past performance over the given periods and do not necessarily indicate future returns.
*Period is from December 31, 2003 to December 31, 2006.
**Period is from December 31, 2003 to June 30, 2007.

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Sun Life Financial garners top investment awards

SLF Philippines president and CEO Henry Herrera gives the inside scoop on the market's trend in the recently-concluded 7th anniversary celebration of SLAMC's Prosperity Funds.

SEVEN SEEMS TO BE A LUCKY NUMBER FOR SLAMC AS IT celebrates seven prosperous years of business this 2007 on the same year it received seven awards from the Investment Companies of the Philippines (Icap), most notable of which was the award for Biggest Family of Mutual Funds.

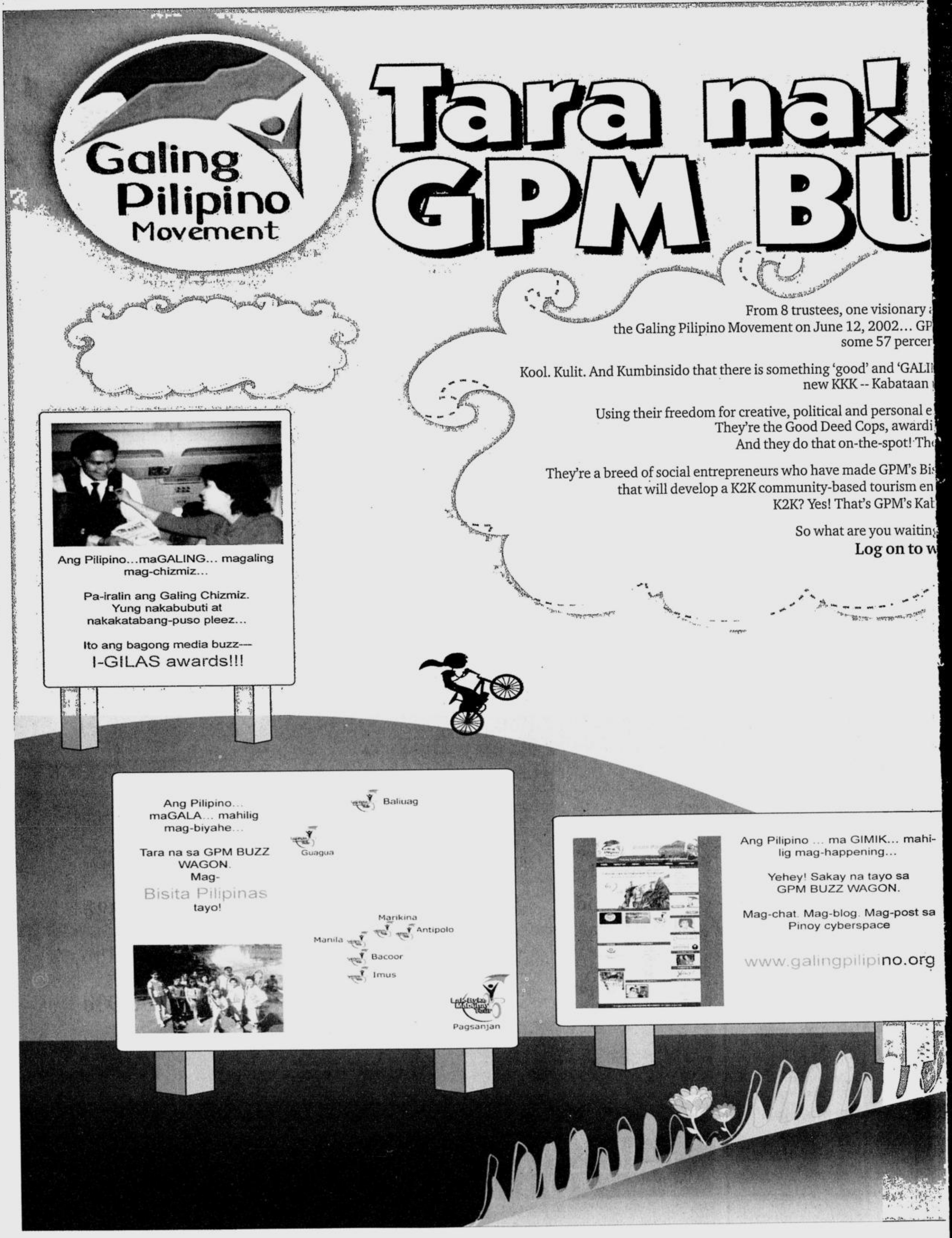
Sun Life currently manages and distributes as much as 7 types of mutual funds to suit every type of investor profile. Collectively known as the Prosperity Funds, the family of funds comprise the following: Money Market Fund, Government Securities Fund, Bond Fund, Balanced Fund, Philippine Equity Fund, Dollar Abundance Fund and Dollar Advantage Fund. The Prosperity Funds is also the only family of mutual funds that allows up to 4 inter-fund transfers yearly, free of charge. This inter-fund transferability is advantageous to clients whose investment needs and objectives change from time to time.

The other awards given were in recognition of the exemplary returns of Sun Life Financial's various mutual funds, among which was the Prosperity Money Market Fund, which received the Grand Award in the Money Market Fund Category.

Other funds that were recognized include Sun Life's Prosperity Balanced Fund and Prosperity Philippine Equity Fund. The Prosperity Balanced Fund received 2 awards for its 3-year and 5-year returns of 20.71 percent and 15.07 percent, respectively, while the Prosperity Philippine Equity Fund received an award for its 5-year return of 17.22 percent. Returns were based on interim and unaudited financial statements of 2006 and audited statements from previous years.

The Sun Life Prosperity Funds have consistently outperformed benchmarks and other investment alternatives. "We actually see the increase in our sales as a compliment for it means we have earned our investors' trust and confidence. And we take pains to ensure that we maintain this trust," says Sun Life chief executive officer and president Henry Joseph Herrera.

For his part, Sun Life chief investment officer Michael Oliver Manuel says, "We strive to yield the best possible returns for our investors without forgetting that our funds are packaged as a return and risk management proposition. This means, we invest prudently and go only for select securities that are fundamentally sound."



Mark these dates

National Heroes' Day

GPM celebrates National Heroes Day 2007 with a Heroic Leadership Forum to be held in various locations around the country. This year's NHD celebration will be complemented by a LakBYKE Mabuhay Tour: Padyak para sa Kabayanihan. This tour shall adopt the concept of the 8 rays of the sunrays in the Philippine flag signifying the 8 provinces that initiated the revolution. Tribute to hometown heroes will be done in the GPKapihans and programs to be done in Laguna, Batangas, Cavite, Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija and Manila. Cebu in the Visayas and Butuan and Cagayan de Oro in Mindanao will join this celebration.

August 26, 2007 nationwide

Yugyog Tugtog Pinoy

The Philippines is known for its multi-talented artists, composers and performers. By harnessing the rich artistry and creativity among Pilipinos, we might be able to create a new trend in song and dance that will have world-class appeal. This original song-dance competition will capitalize on indigenous musical instruments and dance movements. Together with Kontra-Gapi and professor Edru Abraham, GPM hopes to enhance our appreciation of our cultural wealth and heritage.

September 11, 2007, Riverbanks Center, Marikina

Galing Pilipino Yo

Fifty student leaders will be selecte
various schools and youth organizat
the Galing Pilipino Young Leaders t
camp sponsored by La Corona de Pag
This weekend leadership camp serve
team building workshop and planni
sion for the application program of t
batch of GP Young Leaders. This is
filled, insightful and challenging acti
the youth that will bring out the lea
potential in each participant.

The search begins in September
Candidate selection is done in Octob

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Sakay na sa UZZ WAGON

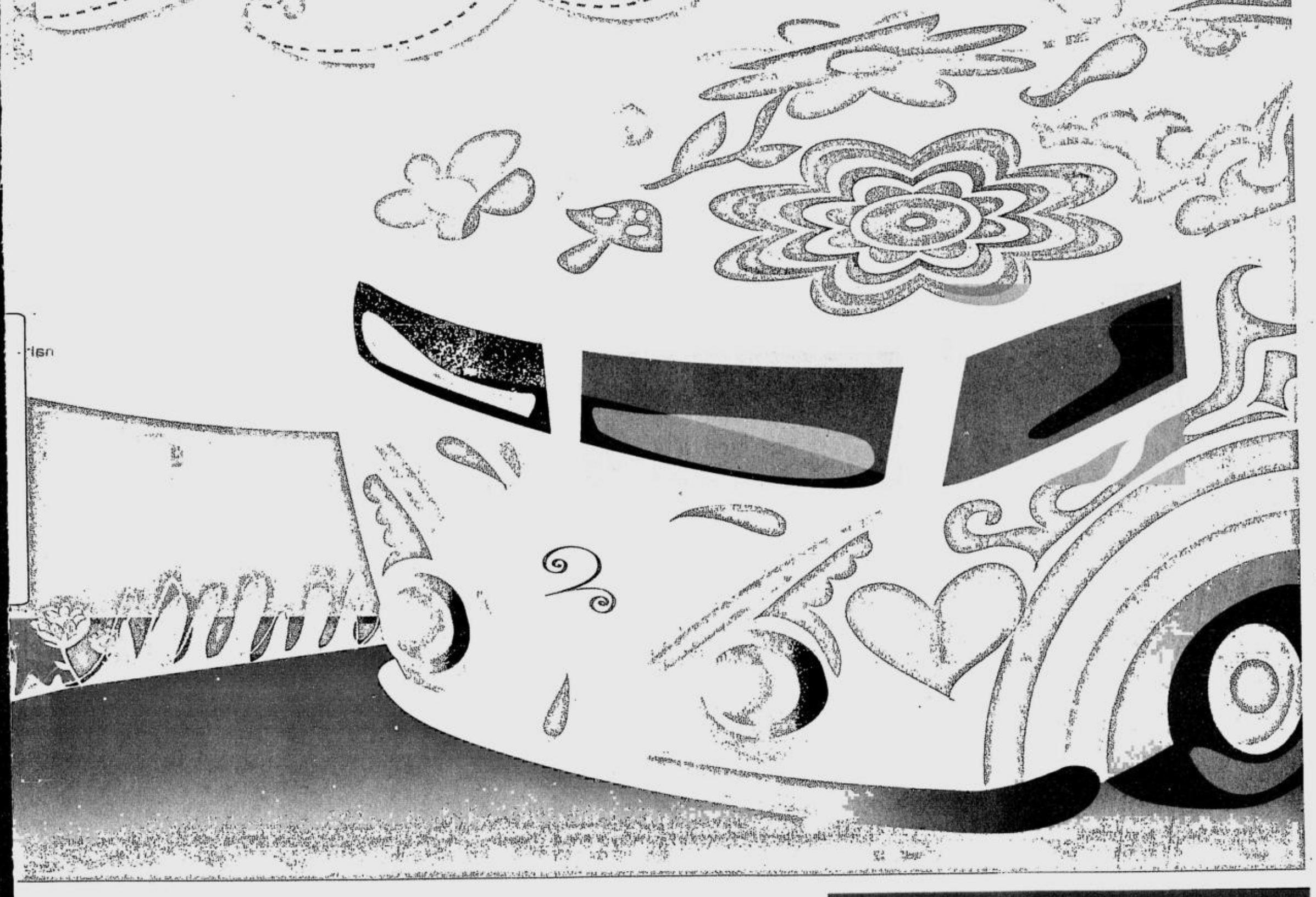
nd 70 idealists who banded together to form
M now has some 4,593 galing die-hards in its membership roster…
t of them are below age 40.

NG' about being Pilipino, about the Pilipino and about the Philippines. They are the
para sa Kinabukasan ng Kalayaan.

xpression, they are hot on the wheel to rebuild our nation from within.
ng Pilipinos who show 'galing' in word and deed.
eir stories form galing chizmiz --- the new Buzz.

ita Pilipinas program their NSTP course: 18 weeks of classroom and field work
erprise anchored on a local bed and breakfast/homestay program.
ataan-to-Kabataan gimik na may saysay!

for? Hop on the GPM Buzz Wagon…
ww.galingpilipino.org



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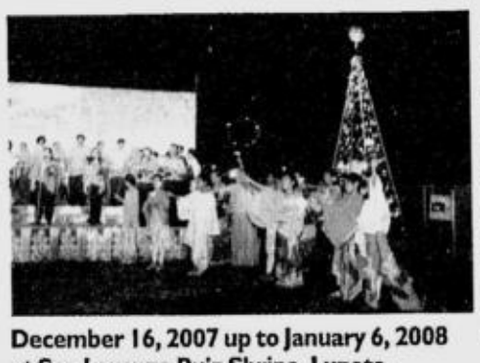
October 28 to 30, 2007, La Corona de Pagsanjan Hotel, Laguna

Pamaskong Galing Pilipino



December 16, 2007 up to January 6, 2008 at San Lorenzo Ruiz Shrine, Luneta.

As a yearly activity of GPM, it hopes to create an avenue where Filipinos from here and abroad can be united in prayer, community singing and Christmas tree lighting through media broadcast and cellular technology. This also serves as a fund-raising activity for the 5 various causes of the organization. Last year, San Lorenzo Ruiz Shrine in Luneta was the home of the tree, participated by Chowking, Sun Life, Jollibee, Meralco, National Park Development Coop, Selco among others.

CONTACT DETAILS

FOR DONATIONS, PAYMENTS OR DIRECT DEPOSITS, GO TO ANY UNIONBANK BRANCH (PAYABLE TO GPM FOUNDATION INC – ACCOUNT NUMBER 00-001-009266-3)

MAIL OR FAX DEPOSIT SLIP AND ACCOMPLISHED MEMBERSHIP FORM TO
UNIT 252 CITYLAND PIONEER CONDOMINIUM, PIONEER STREET, MANDALUYONG CITY
TEL. NO. (02)6313932, TELEFAX. (02)6331089; MOBILE. 0917-8354829
url: www.galingpilipino.org, e-mail: galing_pilipino@yahoo.com

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Special PROJECT

Keeping to the course

From page B3-1

gram. Both the awarder and the awardee share an indescribable emotional high that comes with discovering the ordinary deed done by an ordinary person in an extraordinary way. These stories keep the flame of the Galing Pilipino spirit alive, be there no klieg lights nor cameras nor applause.

Last year, the 2005 Galing Pilipino Youth Campers went on an ambitious trajectory. They dreamed of and worked at reversing the Death March and the Fall of Bataan through the LakByke Mabuhay Tour on April 5-8, 2006. Imagine 16-25 year olds negotiating with provincial and local governments for resources and concessions to mount this event with bikers tracing the Death March route in reverse. It was a Herculean feat that was accomplished with substance and form. A laudable manifestation of youthful idealism brought to concrete expression.

At the GPM HQ, we thought that that was an accomplishment for the books and wrote finis to that project. We were surprised to find that the GP Young Leaders Campers of 2006 wanted to do even more --- a LakByke Mabuhay Tour during 2007 National Heroes Week celebration with the an 'Eight and Beyond' battle cry. They want to celebrate hometown heroism in the eight provinces that led the Revolution through a bike run. They said 'eight and beyond' because there were more than eight provinces (depicted by the eight rays of the Philippine flag) involved in the revolt. Besides that, our chapters in Cagayan de Oro led by Vicky Neri and Tess Palma, Cebu chapter led by Marose Borromeo and Jorge Marques in Davao wanted in on the plan.

> All told, it is looking like a busy year again. We don't mind the buzz that makes us busy bees for nation-building

The GPM virus (the monicker coined by the GPM youth of PUP and Adamson) has spread to other schools and communities. Chapters are being formed in schools and communities around the country. GPM is rolling out the Bisita Pilipinas program, a youth-driven community enterprise development program with an NSTP component.

The Pamaskong Galing Pilipino (PGP 2007) activity will have a more pronounced international flavor this year with Pilipino communities abroad cooperating for the Light-a-Tree-for-Unity moment on December 16 at 7 p.m. Manila time.

All told, it is looking like a busy year again. We don't mind the buzz that makes us busy bees for nation-building. We mind that some of those who read this will miss the fun and exhilarating feeling of accomplishment because they didn't hop on the GPM Buzz Wagon. Join us. *Tara* let's!

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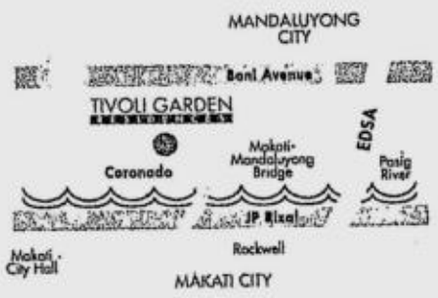

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For Announcement Purposes Only

'Gimik na May Saysay

Galing Pilipino Movement

By Sukha Valdez

THE WORLD I LIVE IN IS FILLED with the young and restless. Eager to grow up but not so eager to be grown up. Filled with dreams and hopes but frustrated by what they hear and see.

When I look around, I see the likes of me hanging out either in coffee shops or bars trying to unwind until the wee hours in the morning, doing what we love best --- being with peers and friends.

We call this 'gimik'. It is a sacred thing for us. A bond. A sacred connection.

Yes, we have this seemingly inane need to stay informed and be in touch with the latest trends. We do not want to be left out and miss what others had been raving about. Somehow, we want to be among the first to know what is in and what is out. So as often as we can, we open friendster accounts and we blog our way through our days thinking it is the only way to keep friends posted on everything about us. This is who we are. We want to be heard and to be counted.

But gimik days have highs and lows. Right after staying up late from a gimik, we find ourselves with a bad headache (or even a hangover) or a hard-to-suppress high that messes up our concentration for a pressure packed day at work or school. Then we say to ourselves, next time I'll go home earlier! Of course, we all know that these little promises are more often times broken than kept. So the story goes on... day in, day out, we manage to squeeze through our days balancing our need for gimik-school/work, in-order to live a lifestyle fit for our age.

Until we get to that 'uhmmm' moment when we ask ourselves: what's the real sense in all this? There must be more to life than this gimik routine. There's more to just our narrow world of me... There's family... country... people... and nation.

So we begin to shift our activity preferences to volunteering to teach children to read and write. Or participate in Gawad Kalinga or Habitat builds. Activities that challenge.

And before we are fully aware of the transformation that has taken place, we find we have become a sensible part of society. Our youthfulness is no longer a hindrance to become co-creators of history. We become empowered. We become pro-active. We become imbued with a sense of mission. And then, life has meaning and purpose.

I am glad I got to that revelation at this point of my life. At age 29, it feels great to be part of a driving force for the future good of our country. Joining the Galing Pilipino Movement did this to me. GPM's Bisita Pilipinas program sounded like the Gimik na May Saysay for me. My days are now spent with me and my barkada going out to help communities develop a bed and breakfast trade business with tour packages that include unique chow-fare and homely historical chika customized for my abot-kaya budget. I marvel at the beauty all around us. We have a beautiful country. And we are savoring that in this Galing Gimik na may Saysay --- GPM's Bisita Pilipinas --- it's a cool way to go!

I am glad I got to that revelation at this point of my life. At age 29, it feels great to be part of a driving force for the future good of our country. Joining the Galing Pilipino Movement did this to me

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Galing Pilipino Movement

Bisita Pilipinas Program

GPM WILL STIMULATE COUNTRYSIDE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH ECO-AGRO TOURISM. THE PROGRAM will involve enlisting private homes, preferably,ancestral houses, whose owners and caretakers are willing to participate in the development of a local bed and breakfast trade. This will be a showcase of world-renown Pilipino hospitality and the remarkable natural wonders that abound in the country.

GPM project partners in this project will train personnel to handle tourists and guests in a personalized but professional manner. GPM will develop a network of interrelationships and partnerships to promote and enhance a locale's attractiveness as a tour destination.

By highlighting what is unique and excellent in a local community, in terms of scenic attractions, local cuisine, cultural traditions and historical significance, a commendable sense of national pride and a bond of unity in diversity will be fostered. This project is envisioned to empower local communities to help the national economy grow from within. GPM intends to implant a holistic program in each accredited community.

GPM Community Development Program

A holistic development program will be established in each of the communities that will participate in the GP Bisita Pilipinas program to include:

Seminars on Galing Housekeeping and Galing Hospitality as well as a Galing Food Workshop for Bed and Breakfast Trade Development (in partnership with Victoria Hotel-Best Western-La Corona Group and San Miguel Pure Foods Group);

Marketing Consultancy Services to develop local tour package options, marketing kits and tour guide training (in partnership with the Philippine Marketing Association);

Community Business Development Programs like Natural Farming System (through Andry Lim of Davao) and Galing Negosyo Seminars Values Formation Programs like Galing Young Leaders Program, Galing Chikiting and Galing Parenting Seminars.

Proposed advocacy project: Bisita Pilipinas

By Galing Pilipino Movement

Background

The Galing Pilipino Movement (GPM), a non-profit private sector organization formed on June 12, 2002, has laid the groundwork for re-building our nation from within by:

a) Recognizing, affirming and propagating what is good and galing about being Pilipino, about Pilipinos and about the Philippines. GPM does this principally through its I-Gilas (Ilabas ang Gilas) recognition program using serial numbered stickers and award citations given on the spot by GPM members.

b) Spearheading a community-based tourism enterprise anchored on a bed and breakfast trade that will be developed by and marketed among Galing Pilipino Kabataan.

c) Assuming the role of national cheerleader through GPM media initiatives and through monthly GP Kapihans held in different parts of the country

d) Harnessing the dynamism and idealism of GP Young Leaders who participate in an annual Young Leaders Camp to take the lead in a major GPM project: Pamaskong Galing Pilipino 2004-2006, LakBYKE Mabuhay Tour in 2006

There are currently about 4,593 GPM members as of June 30,2007. These individual members make an annual donation of a minimum of Ps 100. Corporate partners include P&G, Sun Life of Canada, Chowking, Victoria Group, among others. Media Partners include PDI, IBC-13, ww.yehey.com and DZRH among others.

GPM won a grant from the World Bank for its Lapu Lapu City Dumpsite Community projects which installed Natural Farming and Plastic Waste Recycling programs that improved the lives of its settlers.

GPM also won a PRSP Anvil Award in 2004 for its Pamaskong Galing Pilipino 2003 project.

GPM obtained a 3-year PCNC accreditation as a BIR-recognized donee institution in May 2006.

GPM is working with the College of the Holy Spirit, Baliuag University and other schools for implementation of the Bisita Pilipinas program in selected pilot communities as part of their NSTP curriculum.

Project description

The Bisita Pilipinas (BP) program is a community-based enterprise that will spur countryside tourism. In the initial stage of the program, 2007-2008, the BP thrust shall be domestic tourism among the youth of the land. GP Youth will initiate project development in pilot communities as part of their NSTP requirement. They will organize, train, develop, promote and market the evolved tour packages. GPM will work through its core group or chapter in a selected community to evolve a unique overnight stay tour package geared for young people. GPM will enlist local households in a selected community to participate in a bed and breakfast trade. GPM will offer training seminars to equip these community residents to handle this tour business. GPM will help market the tour package by promoting a youth tour exchange program among GPM provincial and campus chapters.

Project objectives

- To engage the youth of our land in an enjoyable community development program that they can pursue beyond graduation.
- To develop the entrepreneurial spirit among our youth, adding a social dimension that will enable them to contribute in stimulating countryside trade development by earning from it as well.
- To evoke our sense of national pride by bringing out what is good and galing in the countryside, and thereby, arrest the 'brain drain' among the young.

Project Features NSTP accreditation: The Bisita Pilipinas program will be part of the required curriculum in selected schools. This will provide for a cadre of youth volunteers and institutional support for BP programs installation.

GPM training seminars

- Galing Housekeeping by Victoria Court Group
- Galing Natural Farming by Andry Lim
- Galing Food Preparation by CCA or San Miguel Food Group
- Galing Tour-Guiding (Marikina Tourism Office offered their training program)
- Galing Negosyo (various groups like Load-Xtreme, Home-based
- Call Centers, Bee-KeePing etc)
- Galing Kalinangan Seminars like YugYog Tug Tog Pinoy training workshops on indigenous dance-music in modernized forms.

Signature elements in a GP Bisita Pilipinas tour package

There should be one dinner or lunch where the out-of-town guests will be served by the homestay host family with the unique food of the place. An after-dinner program of songs and dances of the locale could include story-telling about interesting anecdotes that bring out the good and galing of the community, relative to its history, ancestry, culture, traditions and the like. Hopefully, this experience will create a personal bond that will result in mutual appreciation of each other's uniqueness, differences and similarities and as a result, there could be an exchange visit that could be arranged. In this way, we are forging a spirit of unity amid the diversity of our people.

GPM aspires to develop a Bisita Pilipinas Visitor Information Center in the community. This will be the control center where tours can be arranged, tour presentations made, tourist services offered. There could be display and sales booth of the souvenirs as well as a café style information library in the Center.

BP Tour Packages should be specially priced for GPM members to encourage membership and support for the Movement.

Project phases

First Phase: Youth Exchange Program on domestic level

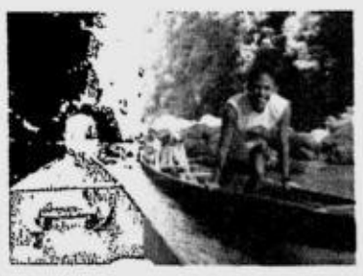
Second Phase: Overseas Pillipino Youth 'Back-to-your-Roots' program

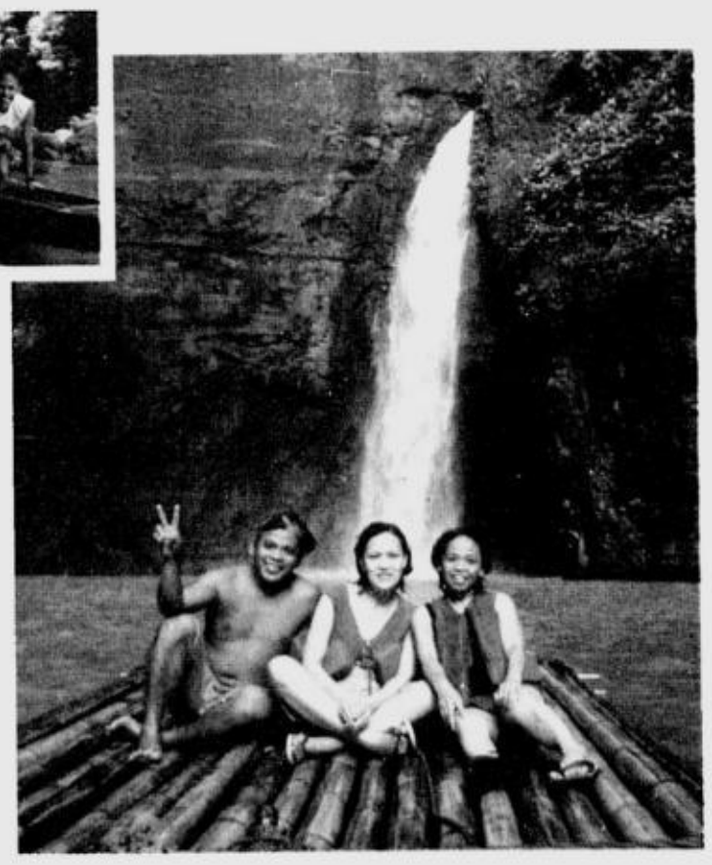
Third Phase: International Youth Exchange program

Fourth Phase: Full-blown bed and breakfast homestay tourism program with GP Quality Accreditation (ala Michelin Guide)

For more information, contact LORIE TIMBANG, Bisita Pilipinas Project Officer, cell. no. 0917-8871237

Bed and breakfast homes: a new found place to stay





By Mary May S. Pagkatipunan

ORGANIZING A TRIP ENTAILS A LOT OF DILIGENT planning especially under a tight budget. It includes transportation, accommodation, food, and incidental expenses. Most of the time, the accommodation takes the biggest chunk out of the allotted budget. For my recent trip to Pagsanjan, Laguna last May 19-20, it cost me roughly around P500 for a guided tour, refreshment, a one night stay and breakfast the following day. Isn't it affordable?!

So what was the package? Upon arrival, we met our host at the municipal hall and they provided refreshments in their home after a 2 ½ hour bus ride. Since we were already in Pagsanjan, we did not want to miss the experience of shooting the rapids at Pagsanjan Falls. The boat ride cost an additional amount per head. After a tiring but quenching trip through the falls, we headed towards the plaza. We visited the ancestral home of the Ejercitos; the oldest and famous as well as delicious halo-halo of Aling Taleng, the historical Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, and a glimpse of some rest homes of well-known personalities. The following day, we had a relaxing chit chat while having a sumptuous breakfast with the family to help keep us going for our return trip to Manila.

Overall, my experience in Pagsanjan was a totally satisfying one. From the action-packed water adventure to being amazed at the talents and skills of the bangkeros, as well as an unforgettable immersion with a host family for a couple of hours through story telling.

This program has been made possible through the Galing Pilipino Movement which is responsible for facilitating and strengthening the Bed and Breakfast Homestay Program under the umbrella of the Bisita Pilipinas Program. Through the tireless organization and support of the different sectors, they have successfully conducted a series of training sessions and meetings in the community of Pagsanjan which included housekeeping, tour guiding, entertaining of guests and food preparation. Foremost in their agenda is the replication of the program in other regions of the country to help in the development of the enterprise and to encourage more Filipinos to first visit and explore the beauty and wonders of our country.

May S. Pagkatipunan is connected with Asian Institute of Management under the W.SyCip Graduate School of Business as a Career Management Service Associate and at the same time taking up Master in Business Administration Major in Entrepreneurship at the University of Santo Tomas

Galing Pilipino Seminars

Natural Farming System

Date : July 11, 2007 (Wednesday)
Venue : Chowking-Pioneer, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City
Seminar Fee : P600 for GPM Member
P1,200 for Non-GPM Member

DISCOVER THE AMAZING FACTS ABOUT this 100 percent chemical-free farming system. GPM won a grant in the 1st Philippine Development Marketplace held on January 9 and 10, 2004 sponsored by the World Bank for its NFS hog-raising project in the Lapu-Lapu City Natural Farming System respects nature and the natural energy of the soil. It does not utilize artificial fertilizers or pesticides. It produces safe and nutritious food that ensures good heath to the body. Its production is above expectation and of high quality. NFS has been proven to be beneficial to both farmers and consumers. This method can be applied commercially or even to home gardening or pot planting in terraces or garages.

No-plowing/no-dig gardening: the usual practice is to plow as the initial cultivation of soil in preparation for sowing seed or planting. On the contrary, plowing leads to erosion where soil is moved elsewhere, destroying its natural nutrients. The no-plow/no-till method is being practiced in natural farming to limit soil damage in farming.

Weeds are friends rather than enemies. They are the organic fertilizer, effective as a protective covering placed over the soil to modify the effects of the local climate.

(per hectare/season)	Traditional	Natural
Cost of rice growing	P 10K	P3-4K
Rice yield in cavans	80-110	120-150

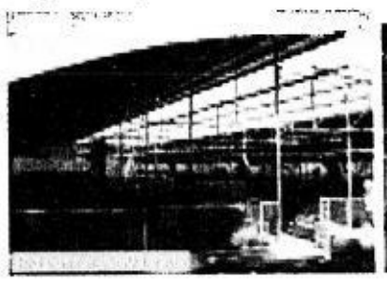
Natural Farming Inputs

IMO - Indigenous Micro Organisms FPJ - Fermented Plant Juice FFJ - Fermented Fruit Juice (binuro) FAA - Fish Amino Acid ABS - Lactic Acid Bacteria Serum OHN - Oriental Herbal Nutrient Calcium Phosphate VCO - Virgin Coconut Oil

Livestock and poultry using natural farming system are very healthy and strong because they are all vegetarian and almost free from diseases. Special care and treatment is done right on the floor itself. Animal houses do not produce any wastewater.

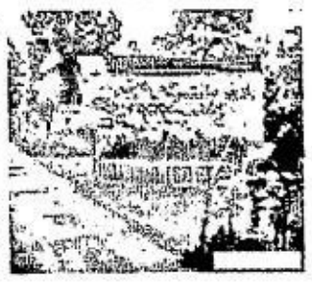
The floor is not made of concrete but a combination of sawdust, soil and salt. NFS utilizes the power of the sun, wind and microorganism. When feces fall on the floor, it is quickly decomposed by the powerful microorganisms. They do not pile up and they do not smell.

Pig pen for 1,000 heads



Walang ligo, walang baho

Low cost pig pen



Galing Housekeeping

Hosted by Victoria Court

The seminar is designed to measure the performance of each housekeeper by tracking the estimated cleaning time and the actual cleaning time. The seminar will introduce various cleaning patterns, a systematic approach to become more organized.

A training ground for those who wants to work abroad as a house help or a hotel worker.

Schedule of the Seminar
9:00 to 5:00 p.m.
July 17
August 20
September 17
October 15
November 19

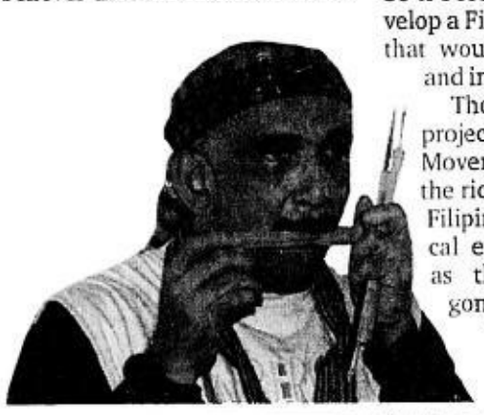
Seminar Fee
P100 for GPM Member
P300 for Non-GPM Member

Yugyog Tugtog Pinoy

ONE DISTINCTIVE QUALITY, even of the ordinary Pinoy, is his love for music and the performing arts. We are a musical people. That is why the talent of the Filipino as a stage performer is recognized the world over. And we believe this talent is intrinsic to us.

There is one important shortcoming, though. The ballroom and social dances in the country, aside from the music that we sing, are all from outside sources. We don't display a unique musical character, through our indigenous culture and traditions are rich and distinctive.

The Galing Pilipino Movement believes that the talent for music and the performing arts of the Filipino is inherent. It believes our culture is rich as far as music and the performing arts are concerned. Just like good deeds that should be harnessed to develop a distinctive culture, this quality of Filipino should also be nurtured and propagated in order to create music we can claim as our own. So it becomes appropriate to develop a Filipino songs and dances that would appeal to the local and international market.



The "Yugyog Tugtog Pinoy" project of the Galing Pilipino Movement's aim is to promote the rich musical culture of the Filipinos through various local ethnic instruments such as the kubing, kulintang, gong and kudyapi.

With at first of its song-

YUGYOG/ B4-4

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**Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1439, Series of 2007

Special **PROJECT**

www.galingpilipino.org partners with yehey.com

In partnership with www.yehey.com and the help of GPM volunteers, Rodel Sinapilo and Budoy Flores, Galing Pilipino Movement launches a more interactive web-site where you can blog, shout or chat. Through the enhanced www.galingpilipino.org visitors can connect with members and be more informed about the latest Galing Pilipino news. Stay connected and register online now!

**** Special thanks to Yehey chief cook Jay Arellano for Buzz Wagon center spread design.***

Prinsipyong Galing Pilipino

Ang galing, sa tawid mangangalang
Kung ang galing ipamamamas, 'di ito dadalinan ng mataas
Hindi ka lalangang mabalang alat, upang galing mo'y sumikat
Kung ingatingkind sa kapwa ang kung hangarin
sahit mabit na gawa ay ituhang hanga rin
Sa lahat ng bagay tuto tagay
Aanap sa hanapbuhay
Hanggat di kapal, di pasawal
Ahamon ang sumagit, Ako ay ang ayat
May lisang pangan pa sa nakasunhayan na
Sa trabaho, pati buong mundo salutat

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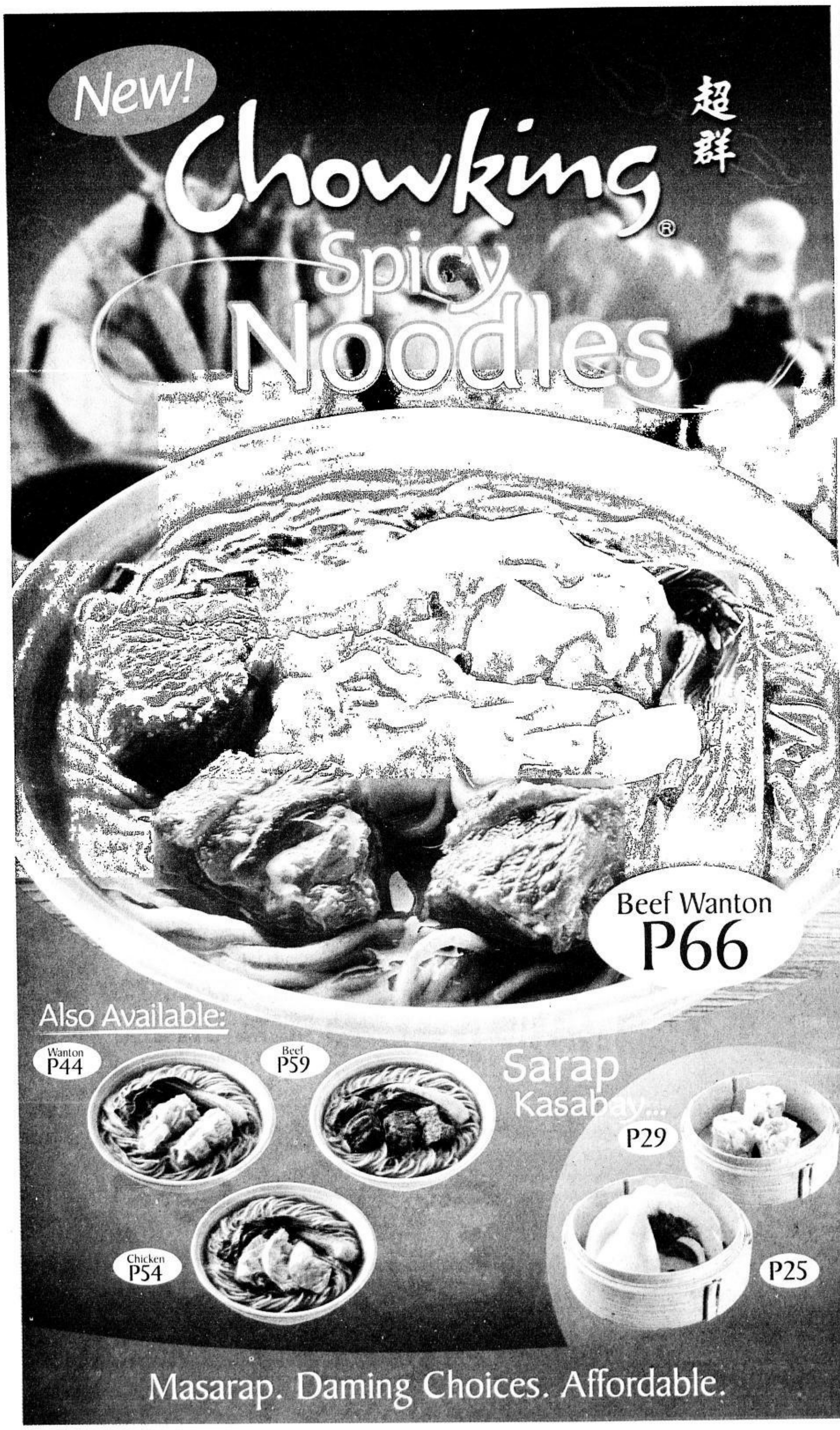
Pls. inquire: galingpilipino.com; E-mail: galing.pilipino@yahoo.com.ph

Membership Form

Date OR # I-Gilas #



Yugyog Tugtog Pinoy

From page B4-3

and-dance competition, the idea is to discover an original composition and original choreography that should be popularly appealing while also being both promulgating the Galing Pilipino ideal in form, substance and timbre. This song-dance fusion of the indigenous and pop genre should evoke Filipinos' creative genius and performing abilities.

With the help of strategic marketing promotions, Galing Pilipino Movement hopes the "Yugyog Tugtog Pinoy" winning entry would become a trendsetter for world-renowned dance. We danced the "Macarena" and the "Asereje" from Spain. We tangoed our way from Argentina. We danced the bhangra of India and we followed the hip-hop culture of the United States. Isn't it high time that we have one we can call our own? This way, we would be able to create a sense of national pride and cultural identity.

The search for galling in music ethnic of the Filipino starts today, Philippine Independence Day as the Galing Pilipino Movement officially launches the Yugyog Tugtog Pinoy contest.

With the ultimate goal of promoting the rich musical culture of the Filipinos through various local ethnic instruments, the competition also serves as an avenue for aspiring local musicians who want to show their talents and be heard. The contest is open to everybody.

Entries must be an original musical composition with an original choreography. It must be performed by an ensemble with a maximum of 12 members, at least three of whom are dancers. The lyrics must be in Filipino and the musical piece must be rendered in 3:30 time. Musical entry may consist of any combination of instruments but must employ at least three indigenous musical instruments. The musical must also be danceable and with a strong beat. It must also express the theme: Ang Galing ng Pilipino. Dance interpretative piece must also draw from indigenous Filipino rhythms and cultural traditions to give the presented number discernable Filipino flavor.

Contest criteria include quality of music which comprises originality, strong beat, acoustic quality of fusion between indigenous and other instruments and rhythm, quality of choreography which consists of originality, movement, actions, grace and cultural flavor, interpretation of theme which contains the message, lyrics, meaning and emotional impact. Entries will also be judged based on popular appeal and visual impact.

Submission of entries will commence on July 1, 2007. The contest finals will be held on September. For further inquiries you may contact. The Galing Pilipino Movement at telephone numbers 631-3932 (telefax) 633-1089. You may also visit the Galing Pilipino Movement website www.galingpilipino.org

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle

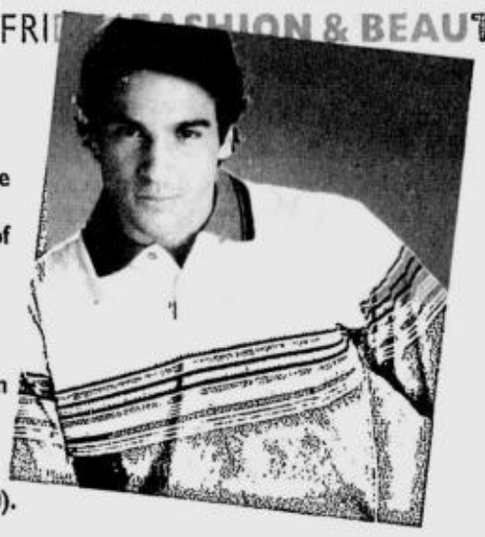
LIFESTYLE

sms feedback: inquirer life n... ty/messa... at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Fashion label for stylish men

Blue Harbour lines have easy-to-match pieces

SWING in style in water-repellent trousers (P3,950) and soft-touch stripe polo (P2,650) from Blue Harbour Golf of Marks & Spencer.



EARN your fashion stripes with Blue Harbour Classic's Placement Stripe Polo Shirt (P1,850).

WHETHER AT WORK OR at play, good clothes are a must-have for every man.

Marks & Spencer has got all the things a stylish man needs to be fashionable.

For the young and trendy, Blue Harbour Vintage pieces create a rugged vibe. Fabrics used are gently-aged and laundered for a washed and worn-out feel.

For Spring 2007, Blue Harbour Vintage is influenced by work wear as reflected in product detailing and color palette that features a lot of browns and greens with accents of red and turquoise.

The collection includes easy-to-wear and match pieces like authentic-looking belted cargos and various printed tees.

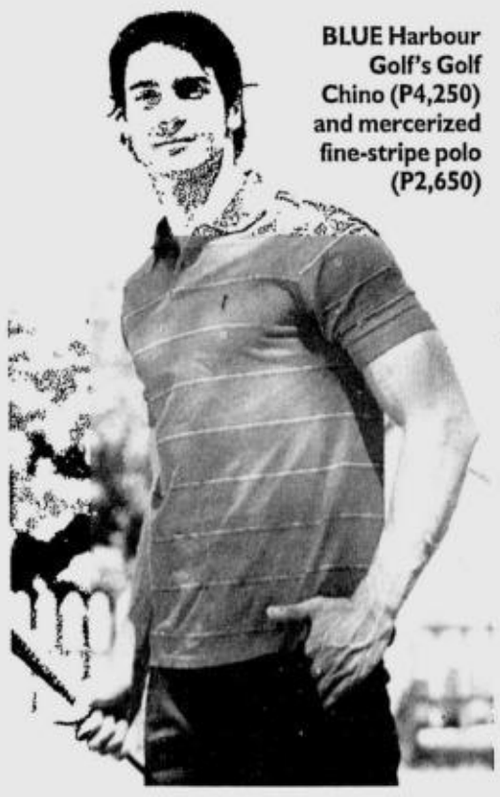
The Blue Harbour Classic line is for men who go for updated classics and a smart-casual wardrobe. For Spring 2007, stripes, in varying color combinations and sizes, figure heavily giving the collection an air of freshness.

With key garments like nautical jacket, polo shirts in fine stripes and knitted rugby shirts, you can achieve a clean and relaxed look.

Blue Harbour Golf is a collection of smart and comfortable clothing for those who want to swing in style. Key pieces include tops with a relaxed fit and classic detailing, breathable yet waterproof jackets, and waterproof/windproof performance trousers with side pockets and button-snap front and back zip panels.

Marks & Spencer is exclusively distributed by Rustan's Marketing Specialists Inc. and has stores in Shangri-La Plaza, Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 3, Alabang Town Center, Power Plant Mall, Gateway Mall, SM Megamall, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, SM Pampanga, SM Mall of Asia and Ayala Center Cebu.

BLUE Harbour Classic items: short-sleeve basic polo (P1,450), cotton V-knit shirt (P1,650), Ghillie lace-up boat shoe (P4,950), jeans pull-up belt (P1,450), cotton jacket (P4,650) and Stormwear jeans (P3,450)



BLUE Harbour Golf's Golf Chino (P4,250) and mercerized fine-stripe polo (P2,650)

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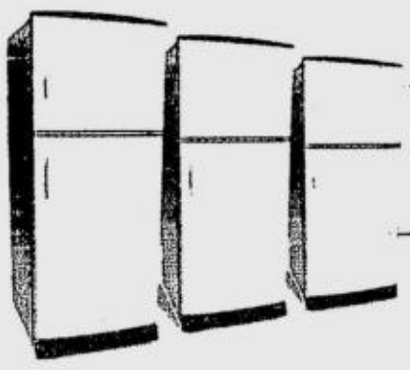
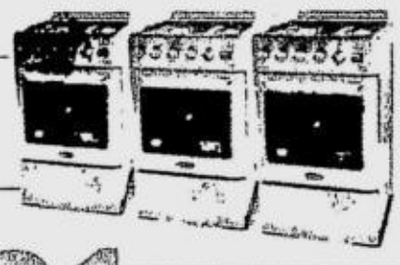
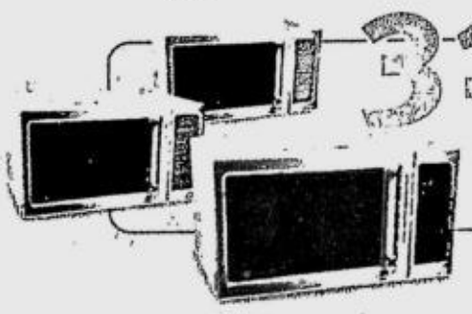


10 winners of Refrigerators



10 winners of Gas Ranges



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CARLITO Ortega with Dr. Pacita Gonzales and world-class designer Patis Tesoro

THE SOUTHERN ROYAL FAMILLE: Sarah Opolencia P. with the debutante Risa O. Peña, Rica, Rita and Judgee Lopez Peña

Royal coming of age in Iloilo

ILOILO Museum curator Zafito Ledesma and *moi*. Seated: Maridel Uygongco and Edouard Garcia

COTILLION participants Francine Pacificador, Ada Juntado and Johanna Ormas

EMELOU Gorecho, Katrina Loring and Zuellen Furro

MAVERICK Ganzon, Brian Balagtas, Peter Paul Alonsagay and Melchor Altillero, Jr.

DON-DON Balagtas, Joshua Misajon and Roi Javellana

ILOILO SOCIETY'S POWER COUPLE, sugar baron **Judgee Lopez-Peña** and civic-oriented **Sarah Opolencia-Peña**, once again gave the bash of the year.

Sarah P., chosen as Iloilo's No. 1 hostess by the Philippine Tatler, lived up to her title as she organized and hosted the debut party of her cybersmart second daughter, **Risa Maria Lourdes O. Peña**, at her posh residence in upscale Ledesco Village, *palanggas*.

Risa has consistently excelled in academic and extracurricular activities. Aside from being a swimmer, she's passionate about the arts and she loves to paint. The debutante is in the dean's list at the Ateneo de Manila University where she is taking up BS Management Major in Legal Management.

Risa, who has always had a fascination for European royalty, chose this as the theme of her debut.

To start off, torches were lit in the whole block leading to the residence to guide the 200 or so invitees from the city's *alta sociedad*, dahlings. At the entrance to the Peña residence was a boudoir reminiscent of the times of Marie Antoinette.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

We were then ushered to the gorgeously decorated sprawling garden, where the reception was held, *palanggas*. Gold pillars, draped in burgundy, with red flowers, was consistent with the European-royalty theme. The stage was inspired by the palace of Versailles in France. Gold fleur-de-lis filled the throne of the debutante.

Guests were entertained by the powerful voices of the University of San Agustin (USA) Troubadours, headed by **Arnie Lubasan**. After an endless flow of wine and booze, dinner was served buffet-style, superbly prepared by the hostess' favorite caterer, **Wilson Esparancilla**, no less.

Then the program started with the entrance of the *famille* of the debutante. The eldest daughter, brilliant **Rita Carla Fernandina O. Peña**, a law student of Ateneo, welcomed the guests in behalf of the *famille*.

A video presentation of Risa's life followed.

Next, the USA Troubadours sang "Can You Feel the Love Tonight," one of the favorite songs of Risa, signaling the debutante's grand entrance, *palanggas*. She came from the terrace and crossed a bridge where she was welcomed by the young members of her cotillion, all from Iloilo's *buena familia*.

Risa's youngest sister, 10-year-young **Rica**, recited a sonnet by William Shakespeare superbly and gave a testimonial to the debutante.

For the souvenirs, the Peña *famille* gave away perfume bottles, brought from their recent trip to Egypt.

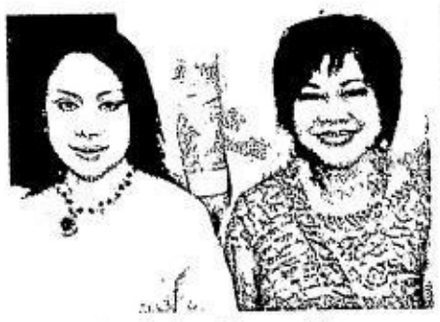
Risa later changed into a red gown, *palanggas*.

A fantastic 15-minute fireworks display lit up the sky, officially welcoming Risa to southern society.

Then it was time to rock and roll with the Overmode and Crossover band playing, which set the young and the young at heart rocking the dance floor till way past 2 a.m., *palanggas*.

All of of this was made possible by the talent and creativity of **Bony Gaverza** and **Nonoy Ybiernas**, the Tatler representative in that city. After all, dahlings, the debutante's parents, Judgee and Sarah, would give anything for their children who have continuously made them proud.

Another fab memorable evening, southern-style, *palanggas*.



SUSIE Facultad and lawyer Rita Sarabia

MARIVIC Madrigal Vasquez and lawyer Jo Mari Treñas

FRANCIS and Carmen Griño with Dr. Marie Caseñas and Gail Gonzales

DEBUTANTE Risa Opolencia Peña in her gorgeous Patis Tesoro gown

POPULAR couple Tata Loring and wife Bulak Loring

GEN. Jimmy Viernes and handsome son Louie V.

BEVERLY Rosales

EMMANUELLE Lopez

ROWENA Zulueta

NONOY Ybiernas

JUN Cale

PHOEBE Cale

Metro Society boss

My pal, gentleman for all seasons, witty and smart **Raul Manzano**, has come a long way, dahlings, from international banker to the man behind the popular Arrakis, to senior associate editor and now the editor in chief of Metro Society magazine.

For Raul's grand entrance to the world of the ultra-glossy set, ABS-CBN Broadcasting president and CEO **Gabby Lopez** hosted a super cocktail party at the upscale and popular Martinis Bar of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

Hot name-droppables of ABS-CBN television and publishing present were *tres, tres* visible, such as executive VP **Charo Santos**, senior VP **Monchet Olives**, brilliant **Maria Ressa**, **August Benitez**, **March Ventosa**, and Raul's closest pal, vivacious working heiress **Bela Madrigal Vazquez**.

The doyen of PRs, always amiable **Charisse Chuidian**, together with **Javi Berenguer Testa** and **Paolo Quimson** (who happens to be Raul's nephew) of the Mandarin, made sure everyone had a great time. Everyone had such a great time that the invitees had to be swept out by 3:30 a.m. on a weekday at that, *palanggas*.

Cheers, Raul. May this new chapter in your glorious life add more fun and glamour, *palangga*!

10 years old

Cosmopolitan Philippines celebrated 10 years of being fun, fearless, and fabulous with a big bash held at the Rockwell Tent.

In true Cosmo fashion, that awesome night was filled with booze, boys and bonbons, three of every Cosmo girl's favorite things, plus tons of fab giveaways from hip and cool shops, *palanggas*.

There they all were, *palanggas*, from the hottest and most beautiful gals who struck the classic Cosmo cover pose, to the steamiest male stars, hunks, and models who had made the gals and some guys thrill every year to the hard-to-beat Cosmopolitan Bachelor Bash.

Everyone went wild when the hunks did their strut on the ramp, which brought explosive applause, whistles and howls from the 800 or more night-lighfers, who partied till they had to drag themselves out of the tent, dahlings.

Wow! What a night! What a party!

MORE men in the house!

SUPERMODEL Joey Mead with boyfriend Ian King

COSMO Centerfold Will Devaughn flanked by Cosmo girls Marcie Linao, Donna Pita and Mariel Chua

MOI with ABS-CBN Publishing GM Thelma San Juan, ABS-CBN Senior VP Monchet Olives and Metro Society editor in chief Raul Manzano

BETTINA Osmeña and Chickie Locsin

PHILIP Cu-unjieng, ABS-CBN CEO Gabby Lopez, Buboy Virata and Danny Feliciano

FREDDIE Garcia

LIA Bernardo and Martin Garcia

COSMOPOLITAN Philippines' fashion editor Katrina Dy, art director Red de Leon, assistant beauty editor Nicole delos Angeles, acting editor in chief Zo Aguila, associate publisher Ichi Apostol, publishing assistant Krisel Raymundo, editorial assistant Joanne Go and managing editor Leslie Lee

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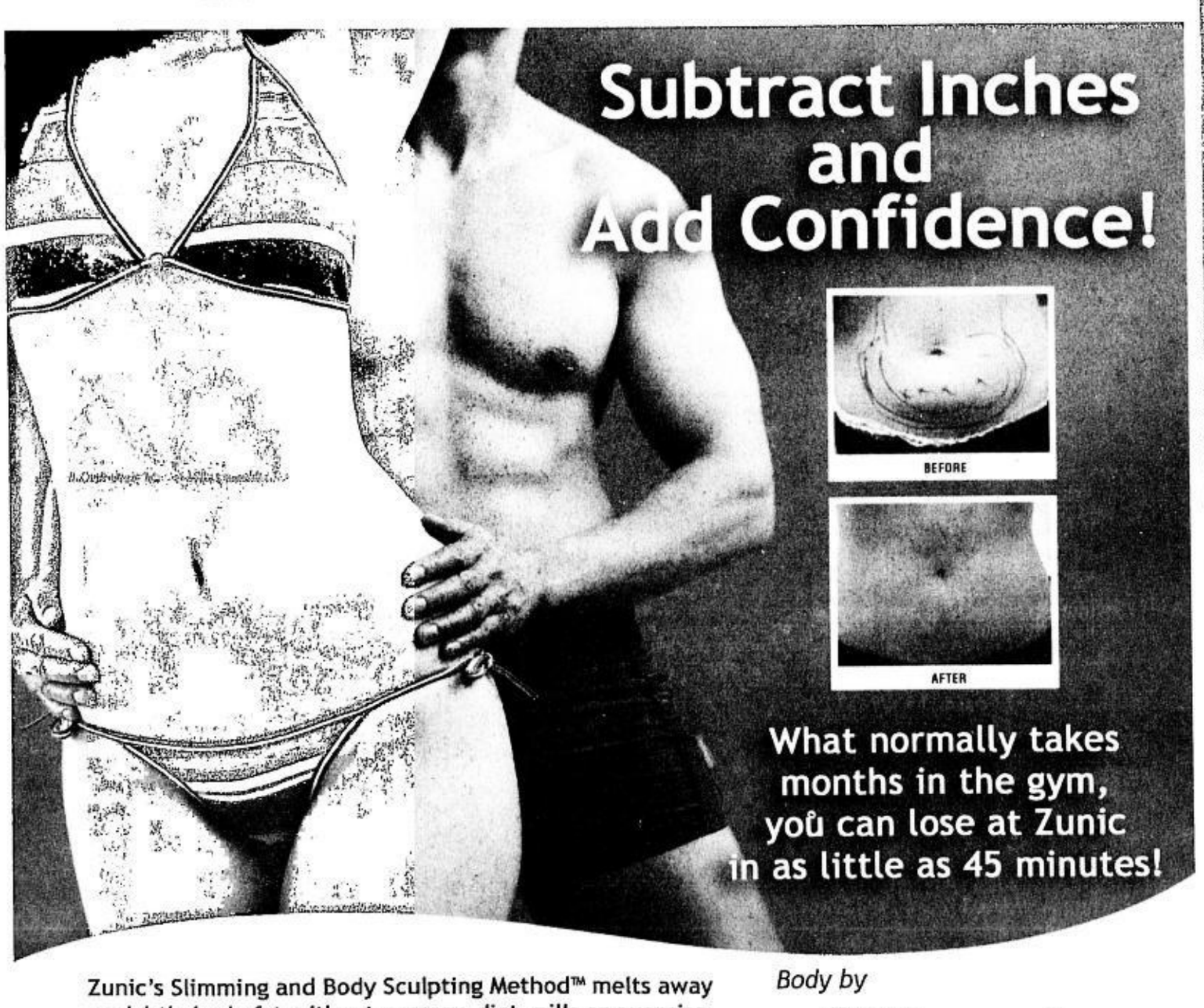

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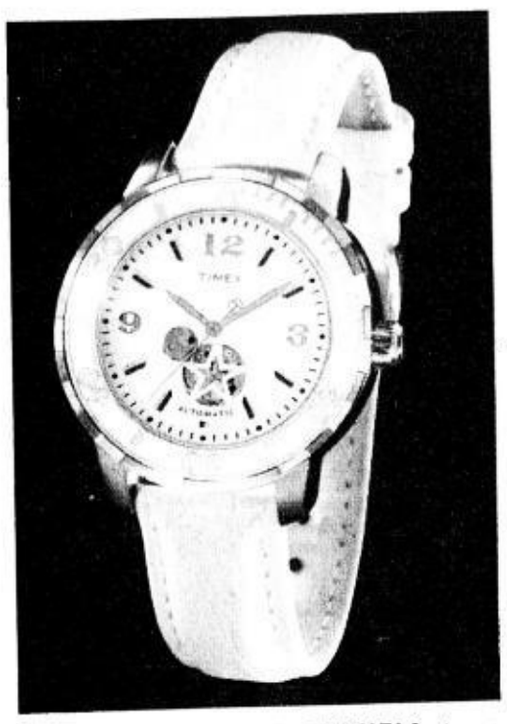
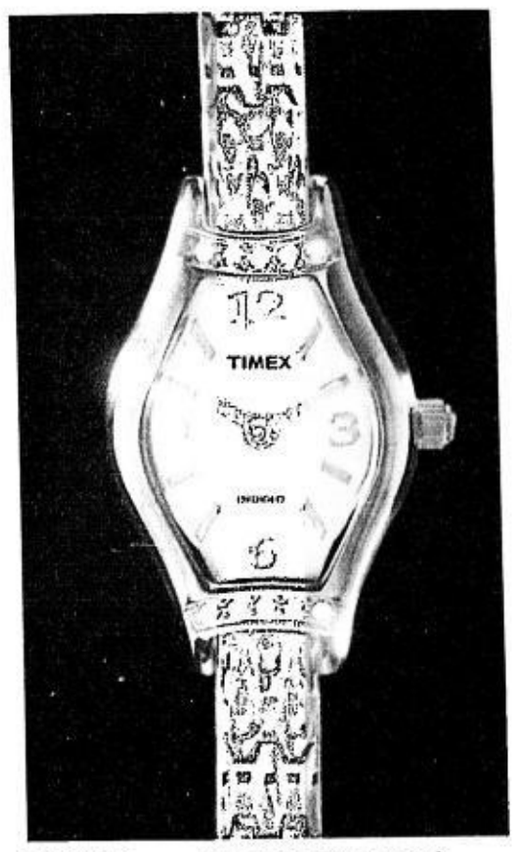
Time old and new



PRETTY meets classy: The TWM171 features a Swarovski crystal embellished case with a mother of pearl dial. It has Indiglo night-light and a stainless steel expansion band.

ANGEL Locsin wears the Swarovski embellished gold watch from the latest collection of Timex, the No. 1 watch company in the US.



TIMING is everything: The Timex men's automatic watch has a stainless steel case and enamel top ring with stainless steel bracelet. Water resistant up to 100 meters, it is perfect for the sportsman who wants a classy-looking yet fully-functional watch.

IN ITS LATEST COLLECTION, THE TOP watch company in the US blends the old and the new, as well as beauty and functionality.

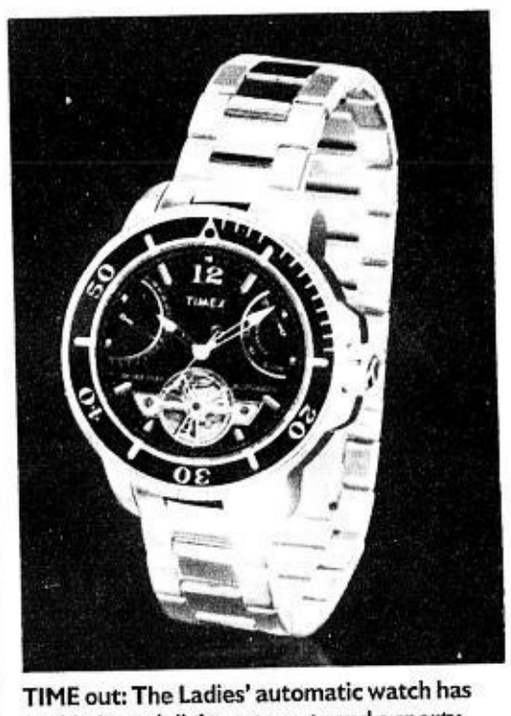
The Timex Retrograde offers a unique and stylish way to display information. The movement travels in both directions in a fan shape. Once the hand reaches the end of the sundial, it returns to its original position.

The Retrograde Collection features multi-eye dial with retrograde subdial indicating the day of the week, the date and 24-hour time. It has a stainless steel case and genuine leather strap, and is water resistant up to 50 meters.

Timex Automatic Movement watches are a handsome expression of independence and self-reliance. The 38-jewel mechanical Automatic movement does not require a battery. The movement employs a flywheel to wind the watch with each movement of your wrist.

Designed from the inside out, the sophisticated dial treatments and beautifully executed exteriors complement the grace and precision of the movement. With a glass case back, you can actually see the inner beauty of the watch.

In the Philippines, Timex is distributed by Newtrends International Corp. and is sold in more than 300 watch shops nationwide, including Timex stores and kiosks and at all Watch Republic outlets.



TIME out: The Ladies' automatic watch has sophisticated dial treatments and a sporty look.

Choosing shoes

GBX SHARES TIPS ON HOW MEN should choose footwear.

Shoes should match or be darker than the pants. Try to match your shoes with your belt. Socks need not match your shoes, but they should be chosen carefully.

Black shoes work well with navy, gray or black pants. Brown goes best with tan, brown, beige, greens and other dark earth tones. Burgundy works well with khaki, lighter browns, blue and gray. Tan looks great with lighter earth tones, blue, beige, lighter tan or white.

You can wear almost any color or style with jeans, but shiny shoes should be worn with dressier outfits. GBX has lug soles, sneakers, loafers and sandals for jeans.

Loafers and oxford also go well with casual pants like chinos or khakis.

With dress pants, choose shoes that you might wear with a suit.

GBX has a whole range of dress shoes for men for all occasions. Lace up or slip-on shoes can work well. A shinier finish usually looks more formal.

GBX boutiques are located in SM North Edsa The Block, SM Megamall, Fairview and Manila, Robinson's Ermita, and Robinson's Galleria.

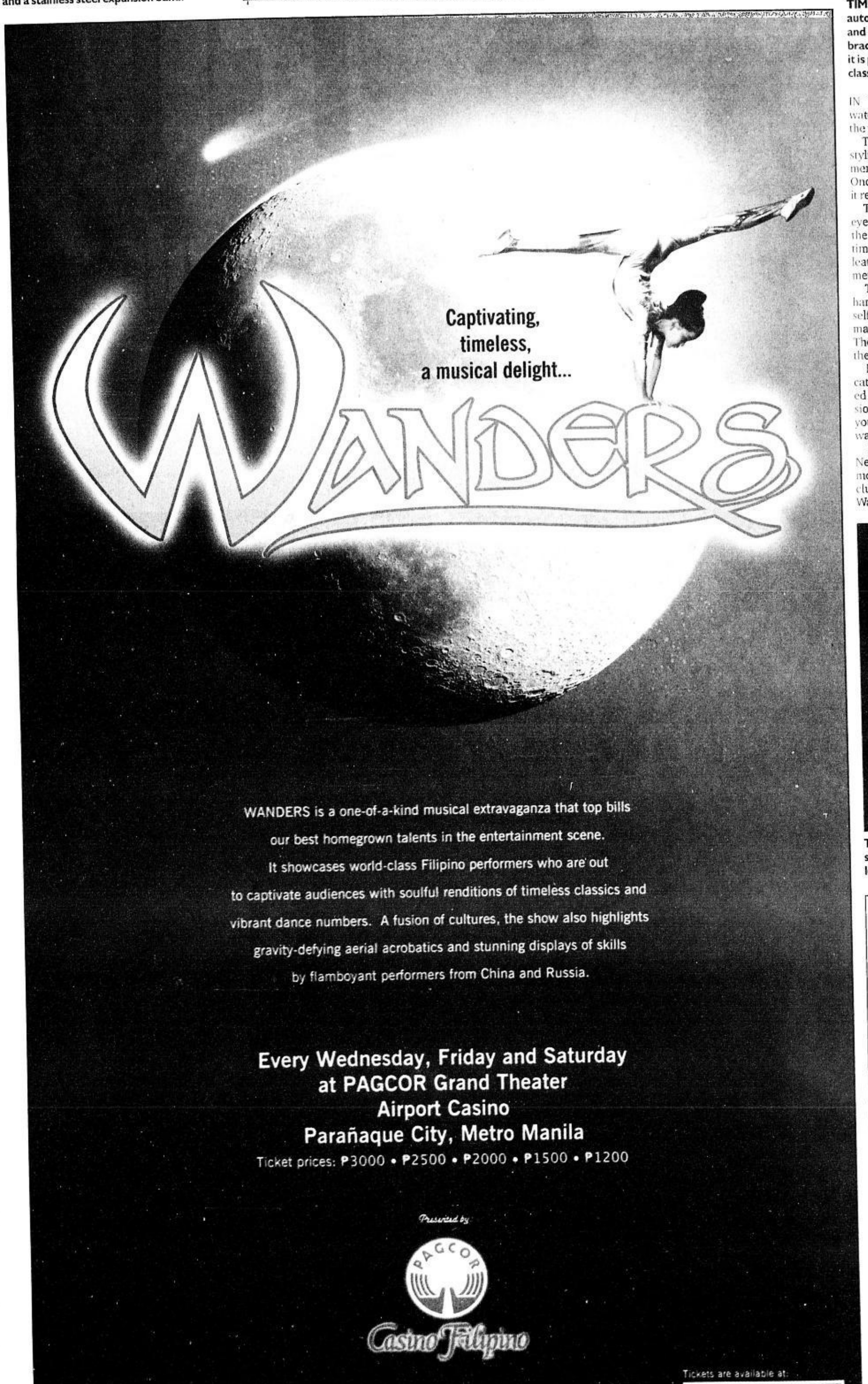


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PHOTO BY JO ANN BITAGCOL

Backstage and up front

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

BACKSTAGE IS really where all the action is! That's why when there is a show I prefer hanging out backstage and watching how every member of the fashion show prepare for the catwalk strut.

It's really where the magic happens—the fixing of the hair and makeup and the changing to those wonderful designer dresses.

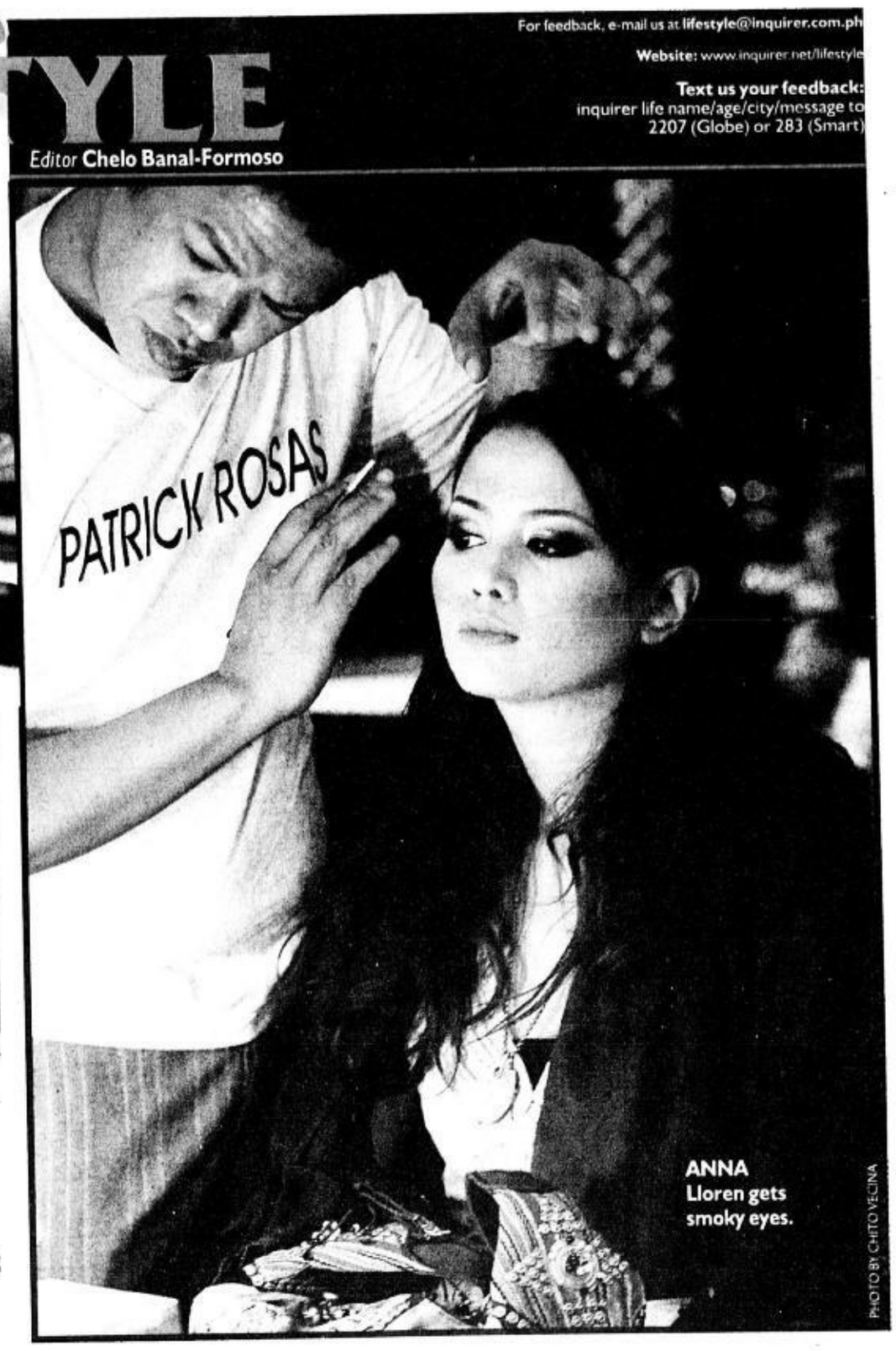
I enjoy watching how the experts set and fix the hair. Personally, I think nothing beats watching a makeup artist fix up a girl. Not to mention getting to decipher the workmanship on the dress.

Backstage is where I really get to check if the designer is meticulous.

Backstage was where I was last Saturday, for Auggie Cordero's Metrowear gala. I had been there as early as 4:30 p.m. while the team of Patrick Rosas was putting makeup on the girls. Their look

BACKSTAGE/ D3

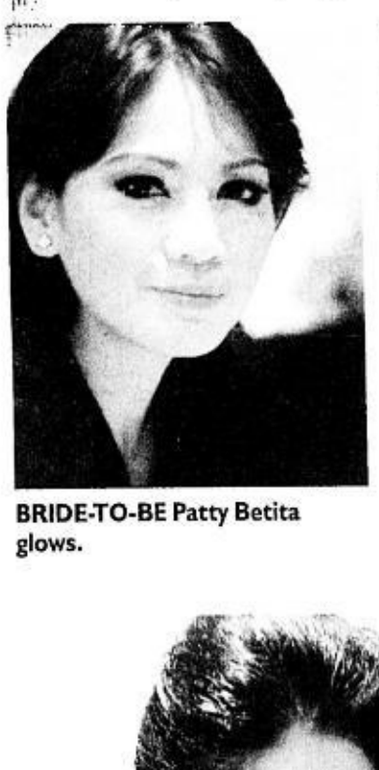
Backstage at the Auggie Cordero show, the dominant look was smoking hot



ANNA Lloren gets smoky eyes.

PHOTO BY CHITO VECINA

SUYENE Chi-Sia done and ready for the spotlight



BRIDE-TO-BE Patty Betita glows.

COMEBACK of supermodel Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez

GIA ARIOLA and Grace Tagle strike a pose.

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BABY BLUES

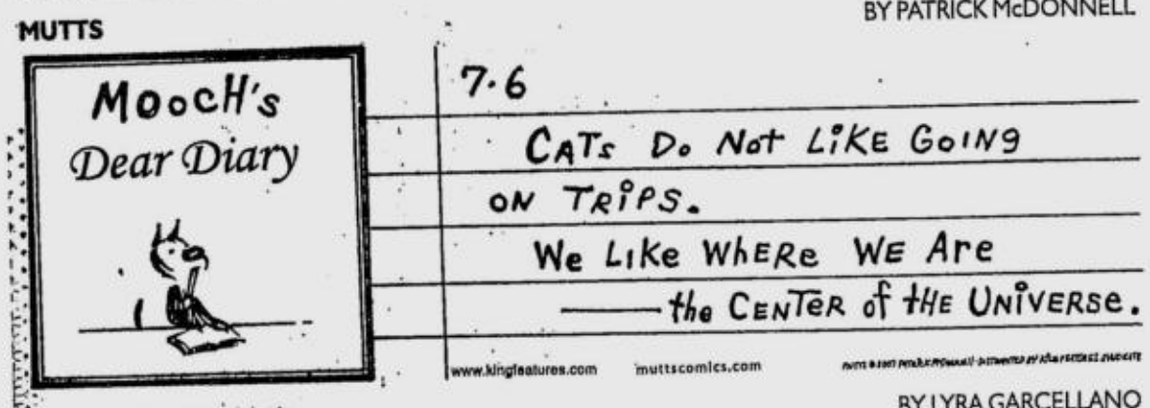
BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



LOVEKNOTS

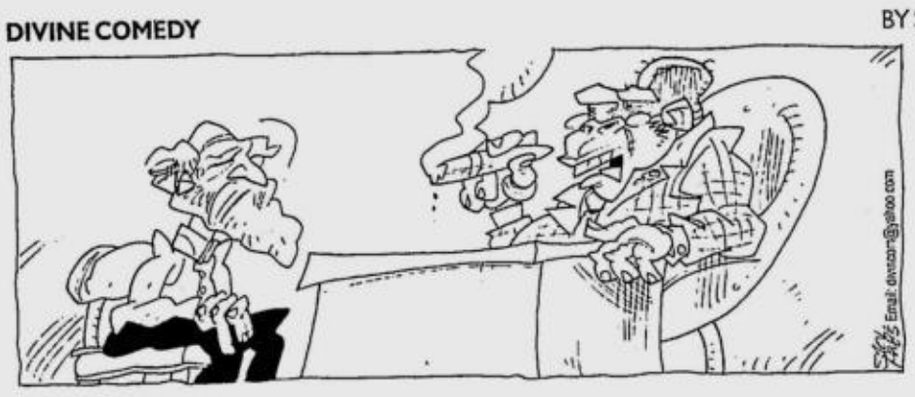
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HISTORIC NOTE:

BINAYARAN NG BILYONARYONG GORILLA NA SI HARRY HENSLOW ANG SCIENTIST NA SI CHARLES DARWIN PARA PATUNAYAN ANG LINK SA PAGITAN NG TAO AT MGA UNGGOY

KIKO MACHINE

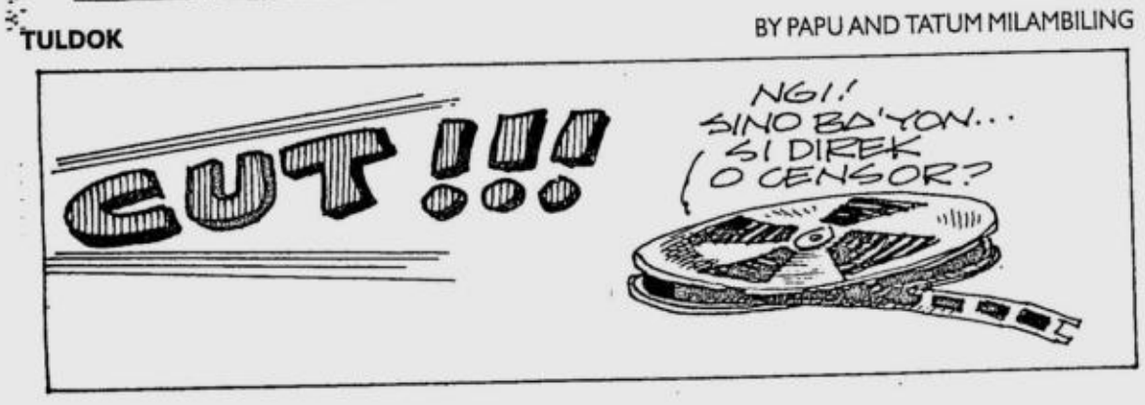
BY MANIX ABRERA

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

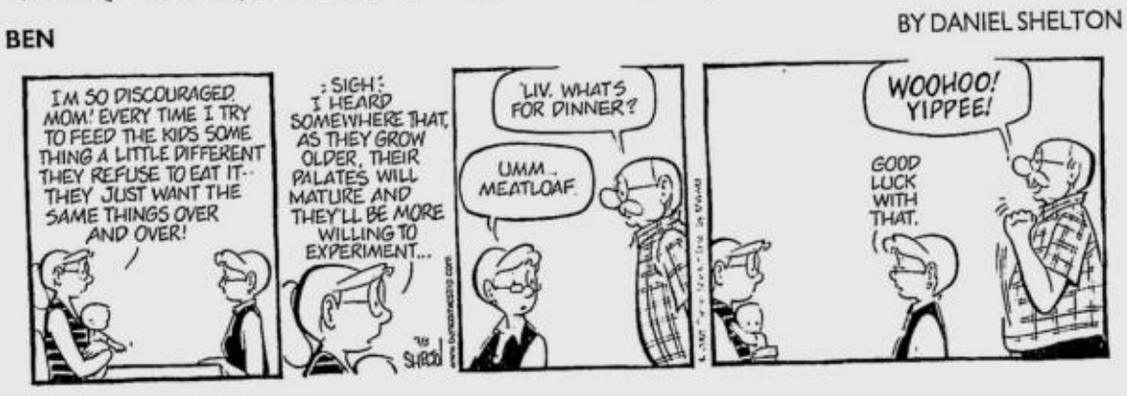
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

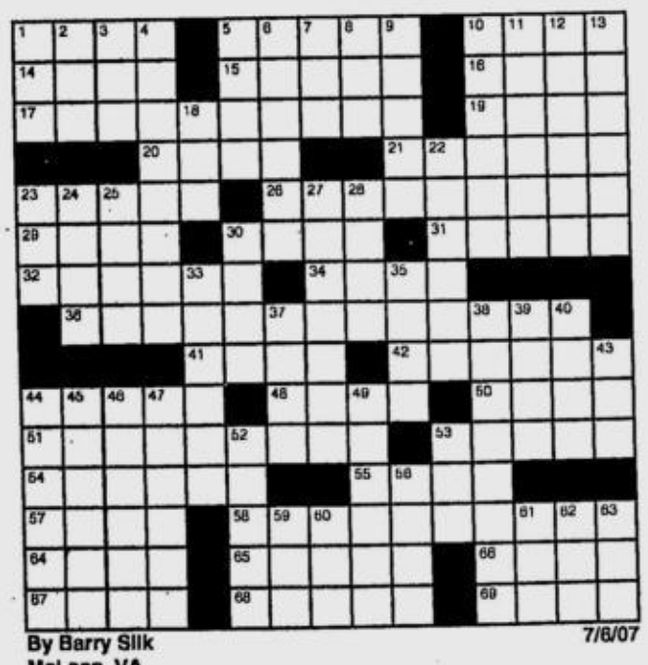


BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



DAILY CROSSWORD



By Barry Silk
McLean, VA

7/6/07

ACROSS
1 Stole or cloak
5 Type of lymphocyte
10 Armed conflicts
14 Infant
15 Pond growth
16 From scratch
17 Cowboy's meals on wheels?
19 1990 World Series MVP
20 Hun king (var.)
21 Rebuttal to "You are not!"
23 Family groups
26 Two-way travel
29 Business org.
30 Phnom __
31 Bank offerings
32 Cookbook entry
34 Quattro maker
36 Theme of this puzzle
41 End of a buck?
42 Slumbering
44 Attachment
48 Allen Ginsberg beat poem
50 Spill the beans
51 Tarzan's outfit
53 Newsgroup reading
54 Charge for cash
55 Ouch!
57 "La Boheme" heroine
58 Ship's maximum rate of travel
64 Hebrew measure
65 Lake near Carson City
66 Linchpin's place
67 Dried up
68 Brief quarrels
69 Oppose

DOWN
1 Puglists' org.
2 College cheer
3 __ Dhabi
4 Southern dessert
5 Wail
6 Actress Danes
7 Easter item
8 Thai's neighbor
9 Red Square figure
10 Become fond of
11 "Peer Gynt" dancer
12 Sign up again
13 Swift descents
18 Gold meas.
22 Wings it
23 "Born on the Bayou" grp.
24 MGM co-founder Marcus
25 Foot part
27 Binging
28 Slangy negative
30 Jury member
33 Cavort
35 Start a new hand
37 District near Greenwich Village
38 Arm guard
39 Snakelike fish
40 Deed
43 "Nova" network
44 Los __, NM
45 Serve a sentence.
46 Rheostat
47 Burning
49 Optimist's question
52 Some jabs
53 Neg. opposite
56 Just gets by
59 Human seat
60 Eureka!
61 Program file extension
62 Santa's helper
63 "L.A. Law" co-star Susan

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

B	I	P	E	D		F	L	A	B		B	A	L	K
U	N	I	T	E		L	I	F	E		O	P	I	E
S	T	O	U	P		A	G	R	A		A	R	M	Y
Y	O	U	D	O	N	T	H	A	V	E	T	O	B	E
		S	E	T	A		T	I	E	R		N	O	D
O	W	N		S	M	U		D	R	A	B			
L	E	E	S		E	R	A			T	A	S	T	Y
L	I	S	T	E	D	I	N	W	H	O	S	W	H	O
A	R	S	O	N			T	E	E		H	A	R	K
			P	E	N	D		T	A	M		R	U	E
U	P	S		R	E	A	R		R	U	S	T		
T	O	K	N	O	W	W	H	A	T	S	W	H	A	T
I	L	I	A		I	D	E	M		C	A	I	N	E
C	A	R	P		S	L	A	P		A	M	E	N	D
A	R	T	S		H	E	S	S		T	I	R	E	S

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7/6/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have enormous determination and perseverance. You're capable of overcoming great obstacles. Many times you're in situations not of your own choice. (But sometimes you have a hard time letting go of things.) Your appeal and attractiveness practically magnetize others to you. Work hard this year to build or construct something important. Your efforts will be rewarded soon.

Birthdate of: Geoffrey Rush, actor; the Dalai Lama, spiritual leader; Freida Kahlo, painter.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Be extra-patient when talking to family members today, especially parents. It's easy for both parties to lose it because the Moon today is at odds with Mercury, the planet of communication.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Don't worry if you feel vaguely uneasy about something or just very restless today. It goes with the territory, according to the stars. Count to five before you respond to others (and smile!).

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You might encounter some kind of opposition from someone about money or your personal possessions. Perhaps the ownership of something is in dispute.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is not the best day to talk to parents, bosses or the police. Try to avoid these discussions if you can. If you can't, just listen a lot.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Refrain from jumping into ideological discussions about religion, racial issues, philosophy or politics. (You will be tempted!) Just don't do it—not today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a poor day to resolve issues about shared property. People simply will not see eye to eye. In fact, disputes will arise very easily.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Conflict with partners, close friends, parents and bosses (practically everyone important to you) might easily erupt today. Since this is unpleasant and anti-productive, don't even go there.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): It won't be easy to get agreement from others today, especially about passionate, touchy subjects. Knowing this, try to avoid this sort of thing. Just coast, and discuss your issues on the weekend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Disputes about shared property or who should shoulder the responsibility for something could bother you today. This is a very poor time for this kind of discussion. Wait until another time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Mercury is opposite your sign, making a harsh aspect to today's Moon. This means it will require all your tact and patience to stay on good terms with partners and close friends. (Got it?)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Do not expect today to unfold as you plan. Things will tend to go sideways. Therefore, allow extra time for everything, and allow extra patience for glitches.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Parents must be patient with children today. It's good to remember the advice of Goethe: Correction is good, but encouragement is better.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

	2				3		1	
4			8			5		3
			1				8	
	7	2						6
				5				
8						4	9	
	1				6			
9		3			7			1
	4		2				7	

Difficulty Level ★★★★

7/06

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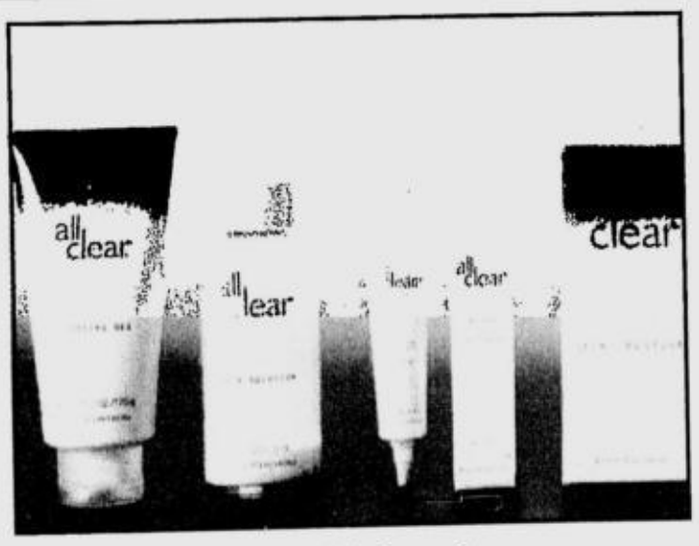
HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

7	9	5	2	1	4	8	6	3
2	6	1	3	9	8	7	4	5
4	8	3	7	5	6	1	9	2
5	1	4	6	7	3	9	2	8
9	3	8	1	4	2	6	5	7
6	7	2	9	8	5	3	1	4
3	5	7	4	6	9	2	8	1
8	2	9	5	3	1	4	7	6
1	4	6	8	2	7	5	3	9

Difficulty Level ★★★



BEAUTICONTROL All Clear Skin System for acne

Poised, polished, perfect

Women who use their hands a lot are aware that French tip nails can be a hassle

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

FRENCH TIP NAILS are just about the only nail color that even the most conservative of men find pretty or at least pleasant enough on women.

The simple look of healthy pinkish nails with white tips define classy, regal, conservative, simple yet well groomed. But one condition is that the tip has to be short—only one third the size of the pink area at most.

Women who use their hands a lot are aware that French tips are still a hassle, because the white area chips fast, making the nails look chewed on and untidy. How many of us have had our nails done the day or a few hours before an event itself and spend the rest of the day keeping our fingers crossed that we won't wreck our manicure in a few hours?

Well, I've found a way to have perfect, worry-free French tips via a woman named Rosie. She put white-tipped nail acrylic extensions on my fingertips and put gel over my nails to give my nails that perfect convex appearance (as mine are flat and tend to grow straight out). The gel also covers the acrylic tips, which sets them for a week or two.

It is important to come in for retouch every two weeks, because water can seep through the gaps as nail grows and you can get fungal infections. Don't attempt to peel off the tips yourself as this can only damage your nails; have them removed professionally.

Call Razzle Dazzle at 8402880 or 8482388.

Acne-prone skin

I always try to intercept the growth of acne, but despite my vigilance I still get breakouts every now and then. All it takes is a hormone fluctuation or a temperature change, and my prevention treatment is overwhelmed.

Here's something new that I'm pleased to report has worked well on me, and with a reasonable price at that. Beauticontrol's All Clear Skin System has three quick steps:

The Cleansing Gel (175 g, P550) removes oil without stripping the skin of moisture. It contains Corrective-C Complex to contribute to the skin's health so that it responds better to treatment, and salicylic acid to dry up blemishes and clear out clogged pores via peeling.

The Skin Solution (175 ml, P1,195) is the star product as it not only clears blemishes but also blots out the grease, leaving skin shine-free, poreless and matte-looking for hours, which means you are no longer a slave to face powder.

Note: Avoid the eye area and expect a mild sting from the salicylic acid.

The Blemish Block Spot Treatment (25 g, P550) is a pimple-fighting gel. I applied this on an inflamed zit and the following morning the pimple had subsided. The gel dries to a clear flexible finish over blemishes, and it can be peeled off after a few hours. Even if you accidentally touch the area, bacteria can't penetrate as the gel seals up the surrounding skin.

Call 8885521 or visit www.tupperwarephil.com.

Note: Not for pregnant women, as salicylic acid can cause birth defects. Those with very sensitive skin should probably skip this, too.

Improved formula

Remember Gluta Snow whitening water? It is Glutathione in liquid form incorporated into isotonic water, which is best absorbed by the body for the benefit of the kidneys, liver and immune system. The water contains antioxidant precursors that boosts glutathione levels in our body like alpha lipoic acid and vitamins C and E.

The first formula was great on my skin, making it instantly silkier in only a week's time, and with visible lightening after a month. The only drawback was the strong laxative effect on the user.

Gluta Snow now has a new formula that has the same effect on skin but with a much gentler laxative effect, so you are, in fact, detoxed without the discomfort and can go on with your job and daily errands. Now you can take the maximum amount of two bottles a day to speed up the whitening results.

Available at all Watson's and SM grocery stores at P62.50 per 500-ml bottle. Tip: Drink it during a workout or sports activity to keep you hydrated and to fight off free radicals released by exercise.

Call 0918-6768440.

E-mail author at kinnysalas @yahoo.com.

GLUTA Snow skin-whitening detoxifying water

TWEETIE' S TIP: A clean moisturized face is essential before putting on makeup.

FALSE eyelashes brighten up Melissa Frye's eyes.

MODEL/PHOTOGRAPHER Jo Ann Bitagcol gets her brows evened out.

Backstage and up front

From page D1

consisted mainly of smoky eyes using black eyeshadow. The look was balanced with natural cheeks and lips. Up close it was a bit too harsh, but on stage it was just right.

Still smoking

Smoky eyes will never go out of style. I am not saying you use black eyeshadow for a board meeting, but there are many neutral colors that you may use, such as bone.

If you pick a shade or two darker to your skintone, you may pull off this look any time of the day. Here are step-by-step instructions to get this hot fashionable look.

Clean Slate. Make sure your face is clean. This is very important before even putting makeup on so you wont start with an oily face that will eventually may cause makeup to run and eyeshadow to build up in the folds of your lids. Afterward, prep up your lids by using an eyeshadow primer or base. This will help make your look last long.

Color scheme. Add the color of choice with an eyeshadow brush on your eyelids from the inside out. Make sure to fill up the inner lid. The color should not go beyond your brow bone. When your eyes are closed, the color should be shaped like a rainbow.

Line precision. If you are going for that strong black, dark brown or gray smoky eyes, choose a liner of the same color and start from the inner corner of your eyes going out. You may want to create a wing to open up your eyes. If you opt for jewel tones such as green, violet or yellow and you don't have an eyeliner in the same shade it would be good to use a thin brush to create the line for your under-eye.

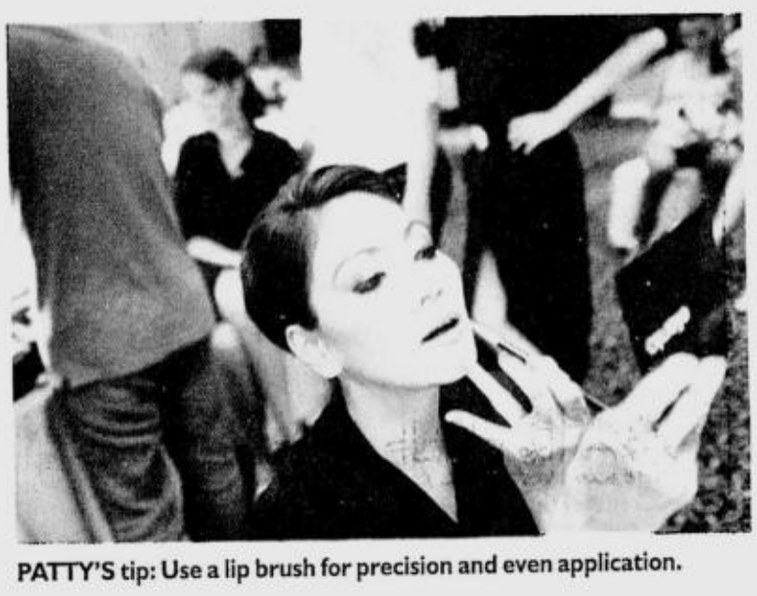
Blend in. With a thicker bush go through your eyeshadow and also your lower eyeliner to soften the look.

Light it up. Add a shiny nude color or pearl shade shadow on your brow bone.

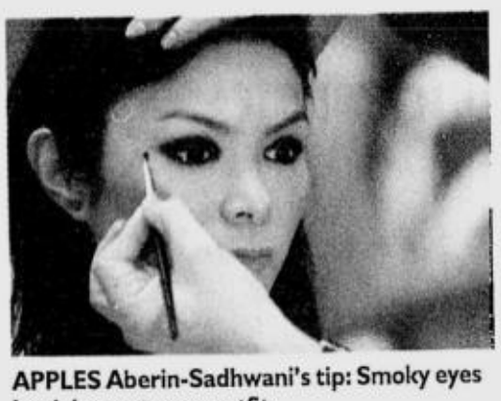
Lash job. Curl lashes, then add mascara.

It is important to practice at home if you wish to sport the look. Also, always remember that when brushing on eyeshadow, it is always easier to layer if you want a darker shade as opposed to going dark to light. When you have perfected your eyes all you have to do next is add some light blush and lippie!

MODELS check if their 'dos are runway- and picture-perfect.


PATTY'S tip: Use a lip brush for precision and even application.

THE PRAT print on the tee stands for Patrick Rosas' Artistic Team.


APPLES Aberin-Sadhwani's tip: Smoky eyes lend drama to any outfit.

MAKEUP mavens Patrick Rosas, Marlon Suarez and Eric Maningat

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TIME DEPOT • Power Plant Mall | Shangri La Plaza Mall | Eastwood City Walk 2 | Robinsons Place Manila | Festival Supermall | Bluewave Marquinton | The Block | SM Mall of Asia | SM City Fairview | SM City Marilao | SM City Pampanga | SM City Baguio | SM City Dasmariñas | SM City Davao | SM City Bacolod | Robinsons Cagayan De Oro
Department Stores • SM Department Stores | Robinsons Department Stores | The Landmark Department Store

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More than skin-deep, naturally

ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S FOREMOST natural skincare, hair care and beauty companies, The Natural Source (TNS), is now in the Philippines.

For this world leader in natural solutions to beauty and wellness, every detail, from the leading edge product development right through to the manufacturing process in pharmaceutical-grade laboratories, is executed with utmost concern for the customers' well-being, safety and performance.

What sets TNS apart from other brands is it allows your body and hair to reach a healthy, balanced, natural state by boosting your system with beneficial ingredients that combine with your own wellness and healing process to leave your skin and hair in peak condition naturally.

Created in 1995 by Dr. Robert Ippaso, TNS now has 600 products in seven specialty ranges, namely Terra Firma, Daintree, Mayaltha, Hi Shine, Fragrant Living, Organics and Camouflage Color. Each line has its own specialty ingredients.

The Natural Source products are sold in over 26 countries worldwide. In the Philippines, TNS is now open at Building 8, Bonifacio High Street, Bonifacio Global City, and at the third level of Trinoma Mall in Quezon City.

BLUEWATER Day Spa (with branches in Makati, Greenhills, Alabang and Mother Ignacia Avenue in Quezon City) will sponsor Liza Macuja's Ballet Manila 2007-2008 season. Catch Bluewater Day Spa's booth on the following performances: "Sayaw Pinoy at Iba Pa... Ballet Manila in Concert," Aug. 24-26, Aug. 31 and Sept. 1-2; "Swan Lake," Sept. 28-30 and Oct. 5-7; "Pinocchio," Dec. 7-9, 14-16, at the Aliw Theater. Present during the contract-signing are Liza Macuja of Ballet Manila and Jeany Lim, manager of Bluewater Day Spa in Makati.

GOINGS ON

Beauty cart launch

NUTRAMEDICA WILL HAVE A GRAND LAUNCH cum exhibit on investment and business opportunity July 6-8, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., at 5/L, Megatrade Hall 2-3, SM Megamall. Participants will get to know more about Cocozen Beauty Cart, another product of the company that introduced Nutrafit and Exofat Forte. Cory Quirino, dubbed "Coco Queen" for her strong belief in the health benefits of virgin coconut oil on the skin, will open the event. A complete beauty line was even named after her. A Cocozen Beauty Cart is now open in SM Marilao, Bulacan.

SHOPPING AT THE PARK. Glorietta presents at 4-10 p.m., July 13-14, City Finds at the Park, an outdoor shopping experience at the Glorietta 3 Park, the newest event area of the commercial complex. Participating shops include TGI Friday's, Slammer Burger, Juice Avenue, Tang City, Sanfo Treats, Gloria Jeans, Skin Food, Rudy Project, Nike Active, Lancel, Tomato, American Boulevard, World of Feng Shui, Moma by Sifra, Printed Matter, Accessorize It, Memo, Evita Peroni, Play & Display, Cereo Candles, A Different Bookstore.

FUSS-FREE ONLINE SHOPPING. Online shopping website www.RegaloService.com does business seamlessly—from ordering to the checking of its items, to delivery, to payment, to follow-up and finally to confirmation of deliveries. Orders are filled the day before the delivery date so the items are fresh. They also make sure that gift handling during delivery is done well, so the goods look perfect when they reach the recipients. Log on to www.RegaloService.com.

BABY MAG. Multiples are the focus of Baby magazine's July issue. Articles deal with raising twins. Parents offer insights on raising multiples and doctors share their expertise. Kids reveal how it is to grow up with a twin. Also in this issue are easy-to-make food for toddlers, tips on calming a crying baby, first aid, choosing the right baby carrier, and how to make storytelling more fun. Baby magazine is available at NBS, PowerBooks, SM Department Store, Baby & Co., Babyland, Big & Small Co. Shangri-La, Maxibear, Infanticipation, Bufini, and Mio Magazine (7283655-56).

TOY RUN FOR WINNERS Mikko John Alfaro, Miguel Panganiban and Seiah Yu won a run for P120,000 worth of toys by voting for their favorite Wannabe during the 2007 Nickelodeon's Kids' Choice Awards at Aliw Theater. The event was organized by Nickelodeon and Toy Kingdom (TK). Electronic games topped Panganiban's choices. Alfaro finally got the huge stuffed tiger he wanted while Yu had a selection of Barbie dolls. Answering correctly three questions about Nickelodeon and Toy Kingdom, the children also opened the Nickelodeon Toy Vault containing one Xbox, two Xbox cartridges and an I*dog, all worth P40,000.

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FASHION

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Contributing Editors
Apples Aberin-Sadhwani
and Jenni Epperson

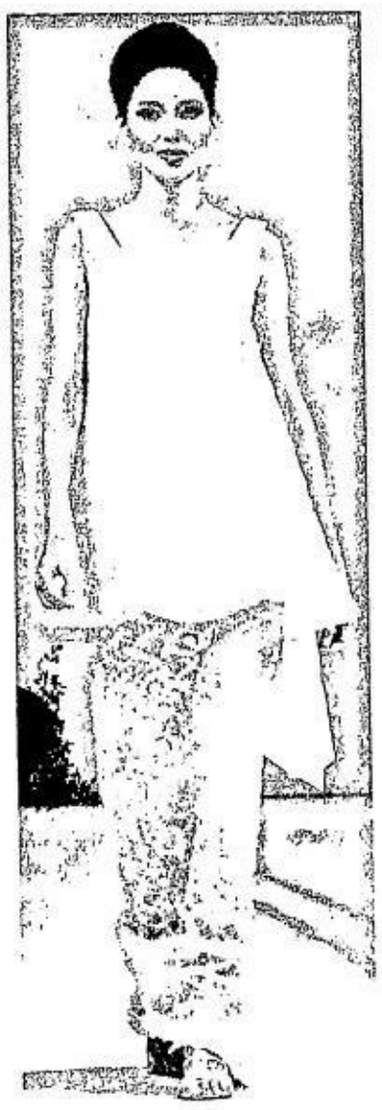
Solitary but singular style supremo

After 13 years of evading the limelight, Auggie Cordero emerges from his quaint hermitage and shows everyone he remains emperor of fashion

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Jim Gulao Punzalan

THE QUESTION wasn't so much if, after an extended absence from the limelight, the famously reclusive Auggie Cordero could still pack a punch with his first gala show in 13 years. Because after he had sent out his 40-plus collection of daywear, evening gowns and bridal finery in Metro Society's Samsung Metrowear show at the Peninsula's Rigodon ballroom on Friday, it was clear that here was a man whose body of work is rightly spoken in reverential tones by colleagues and fashion insiders.

SOLITARY/ E2



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NINE WEST

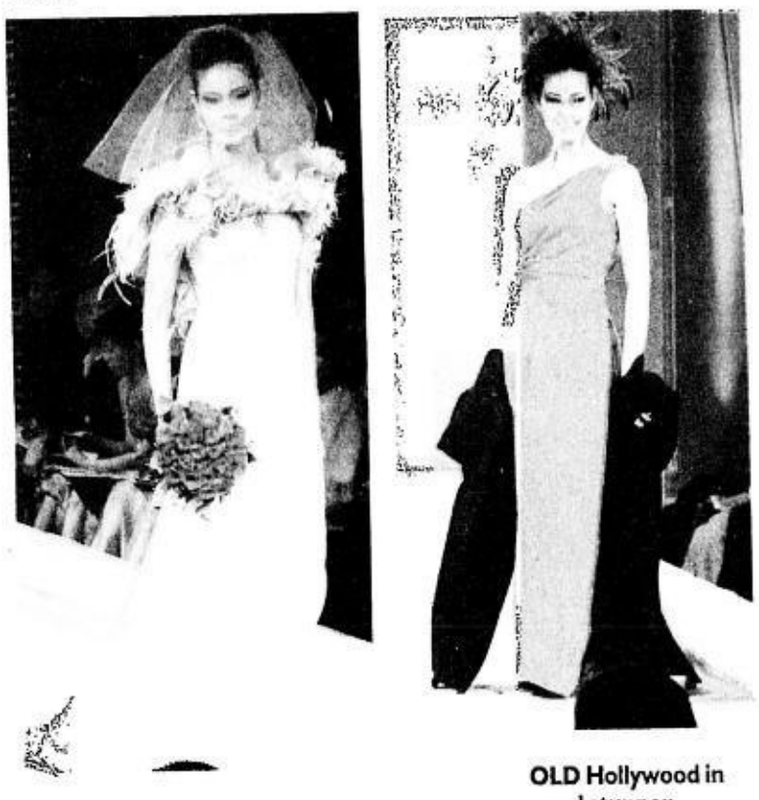
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2892, Series of 2007

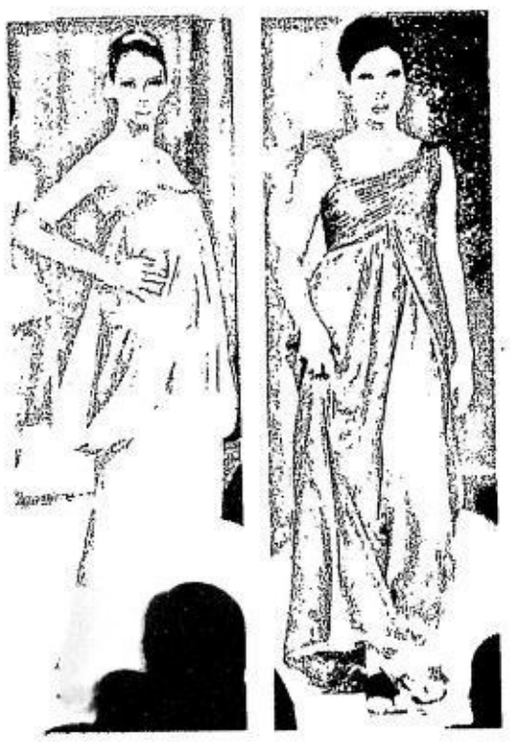
Auggie Cordero

CLASSIC romantics

Solitary but singular style supremo

DOING WHAT HE DOES BEST. The Cordero brides





OLD Hollywood in a red stunner (above, right) and easy shapes in jewel colors (left)

From page E1

Watching the Cordero show was a significant exercise in education, us being part of a generation that's largely been deprived (by way of shows and the attendant media coverage) of his much talked-about genius. Unlike his contemporary and purported rival, Inno Sotto, who manages to stage an annual show or two along with the odd project here and there, the mastery of Cordero has, until now, been an abstract concept to us, evidenced only by the occasional group show that coaxes him into sending a bridal frock or two that, owing to his stature, always graces the finale.

Seeing a Cordero collection in its entirety clarified to us what many described as his "impeccable tailoring," his "keen attention to detail." The huge bow, a Cordero signature, appeared in several of his eveningwear. A well-placed bow that wraps at the waist and ends at the back of a one-shoulder red dress, for instance, provided just the right amount of drama to an otherwise simple cut. A black number with crisscrossing strips of fabric across the neckline and bodice could've looked convoluted in the hands of an amateur, but here it worked. His satin sheaths in jewel shades benefited from a tiny cluster of beadwork here and there, which did just well to not distract from their immaculate fit.

Cordero made it known in interviews that his bread-and-butter has been the bridal market. This time he showed about a dozen wedding gowns in luscious beaded fabrics, some in pale pastel colors. (A veteran model, who was part of the show, told us the collection was "vintage Auggie" in that he never compromised on his materials, each swathe of silk or lace the best kind there is.)

He closed with a '50s silhouette short tulle dress with strips of black ribbons on the hem and a polka-dot sash around the waist—an unmistakable reference to Audrey Hepburn. Cordero's fascination for the film icon is widely written.

JEWELS and satin tiers

THE MAN dubbed as a "modern master" receives a standing ovation.

Straightforward

Cordero's was a collection of straightforward beautiful and well-made clothes, a welcome break for those of us already desensitized to gimmicky shows with bad clothes. Here is a créateur in touch with reality: He makes concessions to real women, cutting not a few of his eveningwear not too close to the body—an Empire waist here, a couple of loosely draped numbers there.

While he shows a bit of skin in a scooped back, for instance, a stole is omnipresent in his styling. He pays attention to his market, which explains why he's reportedly still one of the busiest designers in town, favored by A-listers.

Which brings us to question Mr. Cordero's ability to connect to a younger audience. Indeed he's of a rare breed of designers who's able to recreate a classic into something modern. But how does his sensibility relate to a generation—even of the A-list—whose style icon isn't Ms Hepburn, but Kate Moss?

As he sent out daywear in the form of lacey tops paired with organza ribbon-trimmed skirts, and loose shirt-and-pants ensembles, followed by tailored suits styled with pillbox hats, we wondered how these clothes would sit with the psyche of a young woman weaned on the cyclical trends of Zara. Never mind that this same woman would likely end up donning a Cordero to her wedding, her mom having been a Cordero bride herself. Is it prudent, even for a designer of his standing, to ignore the aspirations of this segment?

(This town seems oddly of the mind-set that an older designer can only make clothes for a woman of a certain age. Why, when the work of a man like Karl Lagerfeld, who's 73, continues to be desirable and relevant equally to a woman in her 20s as much as to her mother?)

But Cordero isn't going anywhere anytime soon, and that should be enough to mollify us. It's a rare privilege to come up close to the work of a so-called master, and we hope this doesn't remain the exclusive realm of his high-society market. There's an eager audience in this generation that could greatly benefit and learn from the body of work of a living and actively working master like this man. And another 13-year wait *is* a long time.

Casuals to cocktails

backstage pass backstage pass backstage pass backstage pass backstage pass backstage pass backstage pass backstage

CAMERAS besiege Auggie as he puts his finishing touches on some pieces.

CONFERRING with the Jewelmer staff on his choice of lustrous pearls

FUTURE supermodels Lotus, Jasmine, Kim

PHOTO BY APPLES ABERIN-SADHWANI

AUGGIE styles ramp superstar Marina.

ARIEL gives last-minute instructions and reminds everyone to look and feel elegant.

ROMINA, Georgette and Anna ham it up for Jo Ann!

NO SUCH thing as organized chaos backstage. Everything is simply in order.

Modern master

Some things never change, such as the Auggie Cordero magic

Photography Jo Ann Bitagcol

SOME THINGS NEVER change," uttered Metro Society editor in chief Raul Manzano as I entered the function room beside the Rigodon Ballroom of the Manila Peninsula Hotel for the rehearsals of Auggie Cordero's gala fashion show. I wondered what he meant, only to find out that he was poking fun at the fact that models from different batches (mine included) sat on different sides of the room, thereby creating an invisible line between the *señoras* (older, more experienced mannequins) and the "others" (newbies and junior models).

It was funny, indeed, but also quite unintentional. In any case, I was thankful that some things have stayed the way they are. Case in point: Auggie Cordero, who was—and still is—one of Manila's modern masters of fashion.

His last show prior to this one was 13 years ago. It was a grand spectacle that featured Auggie's creations worn by Manila's top models, including international model Anna Bayle. This current show promised to be yet another impressive reunion and much-awaited fete, with Auggie and his creations at the center of it all.

I remember Auggie's last show quite clearly because it was probably the first time that the Barong Tagalog was worn in a very chic, stylish and modern way by women. Auggie paired the classic top with very slim pants, which were not even in fashion back then. I remember thinking to myself that he was setting yet another fashion trend.

When director Ariel Lozada called to ask me to model for Auggie, who was staging this current fashion show hosted by Metro Society, I simply could not say no. Of course, it helped that some of my other colleagues were also doing the show. After many years, Izza, Suyene, Tweetie, Patty, Marina and I would all be reunited on stage.

The Auggie I knew and loved more than a decade ago is still the same old Auggie. It was like no time had lapsed between his last show and his current gala. As I attended fittings and rehearsals, it became apparent that he was still the warm, welcoming friend that I knew. A constant source of information and trivia, he was the same passionate individual with an unparalleled love for his craft.

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

One of the things I've always admired about Auggie was he never did anything half-baked. And true to form, he went all out for this production, paying attention to every single detail—from the cut of each gown, the quality of the material, choice of models, makeup team and director, choice of music, even down to the choice of flowers, shoes and chairs (Tiffany's, no less!) used for the gala night!

Calm, relaxed, confident

The mood during rehearsals and backstage during the show day was also a reflection of Auggie's general attitude and demeanor, which was calm, relaxed and confident. No such thing as organized chaos. Everything was simply in order. Everyone was in a good mood, as Patrick Rosas and his team of makeup artist, including Eric Maningat and Marlon Suarez, transformed models into smoky-eyed divas.

Backstage, wardrobe mistresses quietly put finishing touches on some pieces; Jewelmer staff set up a table of lustrous pearls; Tony Rodriguez brought in baskets of beautiful bouquets, while Auggie coolly surveyed his domain, making sure nothing was left to chance.

The show was also effortless and flawless. Models changed quickly from one outfit to the next and confidently sashayed down the runway in Auggie's sumptuous creations.

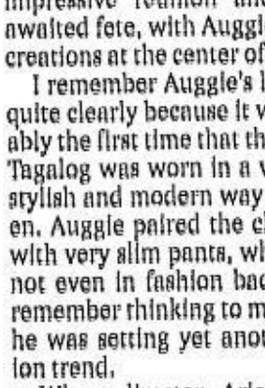
My co-models and I were uncharacteristically but understandably nervous. Some of us had not walked the runway in years. Nevertheless, old habits die hard. Just as you never forget how to ride a bike, you simply never forget to do the catwalk.

During the curtain call, Joni Mitchell's touching rendition of "Both Sides Now" (one of Auggie's current favorites) played as we walked down the runway one final time.

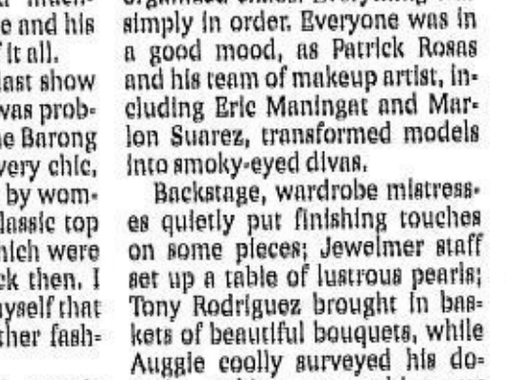
Suyene, clad in an Audrey Hepburn-inspired wedding dress, escorted Auggie toward the end of the ramp, as the audience showed their love by showering the designer with applause, bouquets of flowers, and giving him a standing ovation.

Indeed, some things never change and, hopefully, never will.

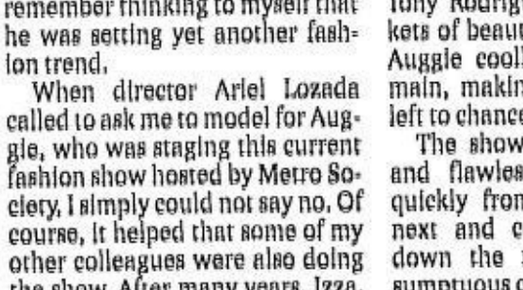
E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph



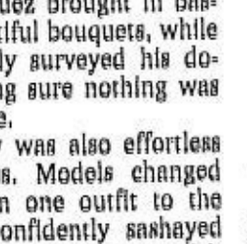
SUYENE closes the show.



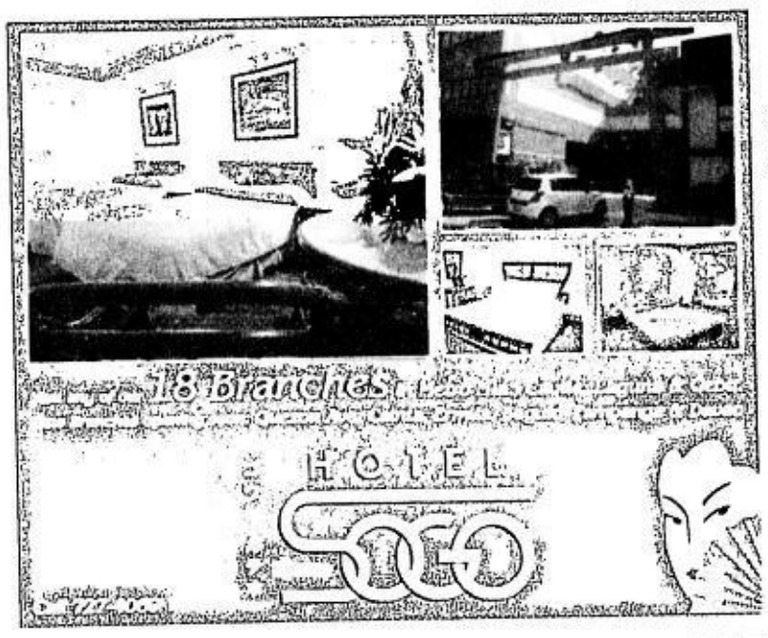
METRO Society editor in chief Raul Manzano with the "*señoras*"

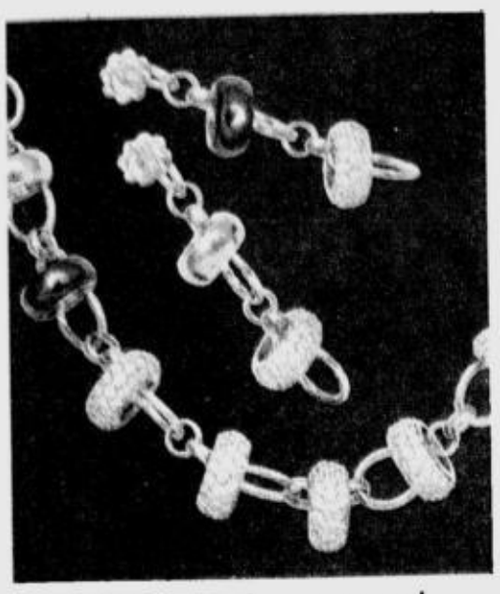


MODELS-IN-WAITING

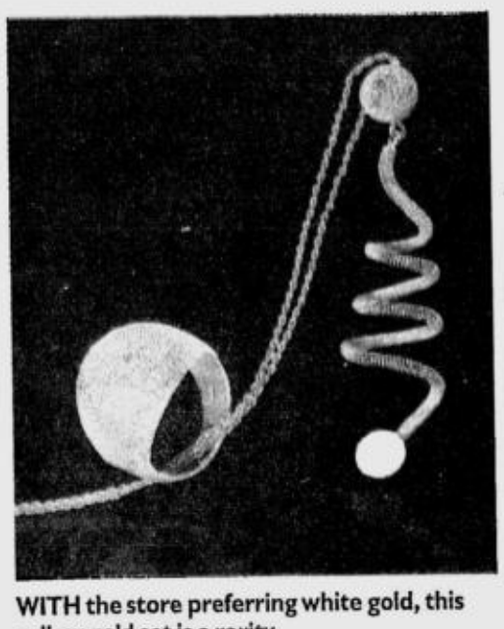


SOUTH Sea pearls were sewn into this Cordero creation.

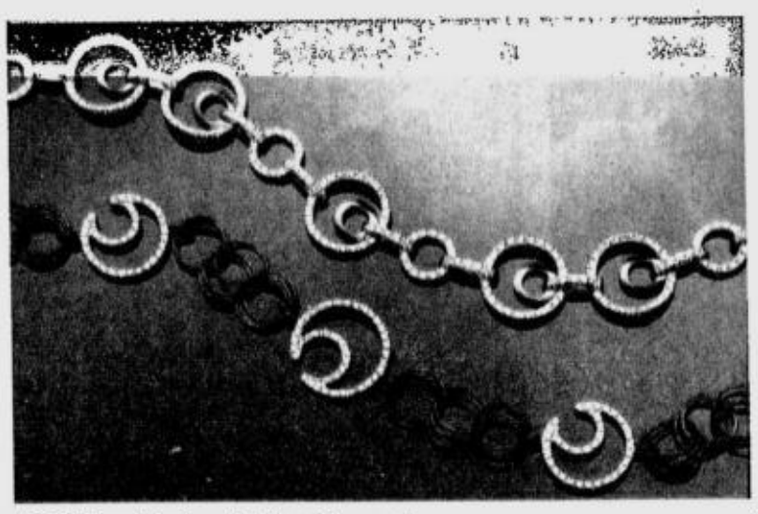




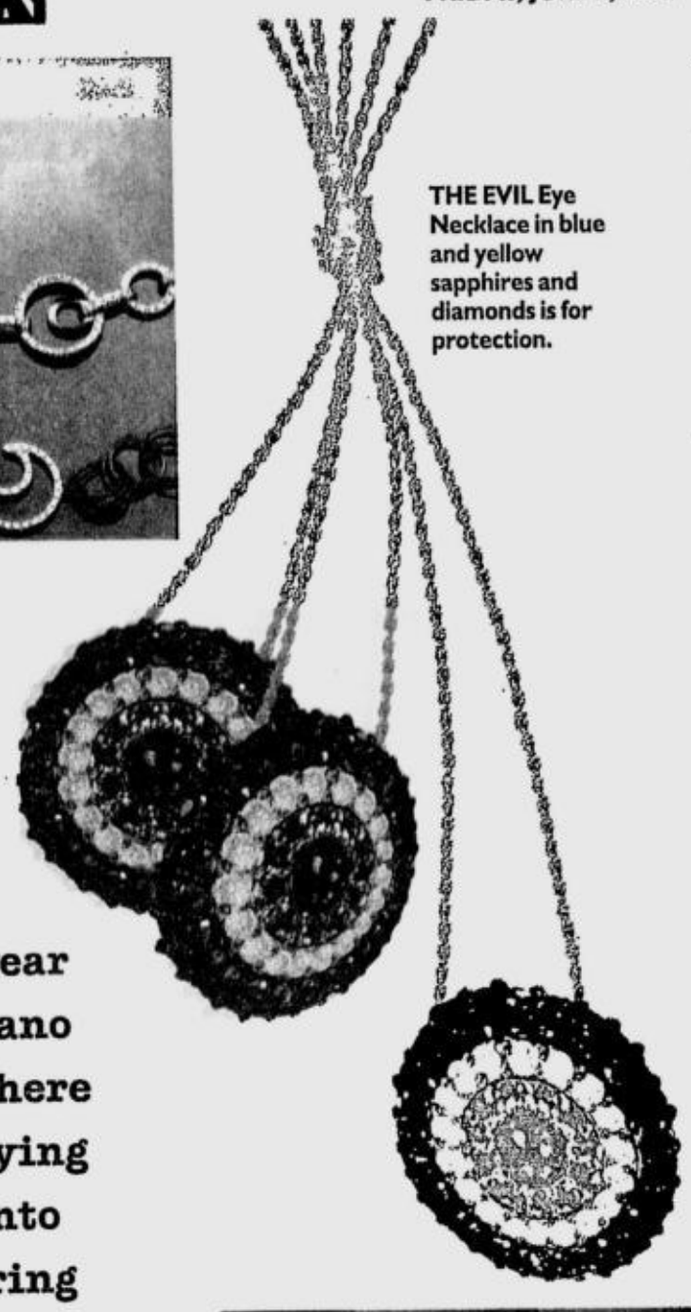
GEOMETRIC shapes showcase unusual colors of stones.



WITH the store preferring white gold, this yellow gold set is a rarity.



LOOPS and chains with tiny diamonds



THE EVIL Eye Necklace in blue and yellow sapphires and diamonds is for protection.

Modern design for future classic

By Linda B. Bolido

DIAMONDS ARE SUPPOSED to be a girl's best friend. But you may want to find room in your heart for sapphires, rubies, emeralds and other precious stones when you see the exquisite one-of-a-kind jewelry pieces of Mod Milano.

Designed and made in Naples, Italy, the jewelry pieces, generally set in 18-carat white gold, feature contemporary—even avant-garde designs—but with all the hallmark of future classics.

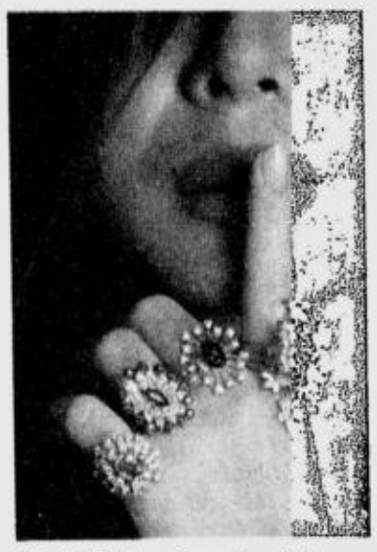
Though they are obviously expensive pieces, they are not ostentatious, and can easily go from lunch with the girls to an evening social engagement without calling attention to themselves for being too showy or too inappropriate for the occasion. Of course, for the incorrigible scene-stealer, there are a few dramatic pieces that will no doubt make people stop in their tracks to ogle.

Still, every piece is tastefully done, designed to showcase the artistry and workmanship rather than the size of the gem. They are meant to be worn with pride and cherished, possibly to become future family heirloom.

Exactly what Sinan Batur, owner and manager of Mod Milano Jewellery that sells only in some 10 countries in Europe, America and Asia-Pacific, hopes for. The Turkish-born Batur said: "Each item of Mod Milano Jewellery goes beyond providing just a lifetime of enjoyment. It provides generations with pleasure and pride of ownership."

A Mod Milano piece will make you feel special not only because of its price but also because you are the only one who has it. You can confidently wear your Mod Milano jewelry anywhere without worrying that you will bump into someone draped in the same neckpiece or with the same earrings dangling from her ears.

A SET of white gold mesh



FLORAL rings for colored stones

You can confidently wear your Mod Milano jewelry anywhere without worrying you'll bump into someone wearing the same piece

EACH item with diamond comes with a certificate of authenticity.

Now showcasing its Mod Milano Summer 2007 Collection, the jewelry store on the ground floor of Gateway in the Araneta Center in Cubao, QC, owned and managed by Liezel F. Batur, offers one-of-a-kind pieces, each especially crafted with one special buyer in every country in mind "to ensure utmost value, satisfaction and exclusivity."

The pieces are designed and made by skilled Italian craftsmen and artisans who draw from Italy's rich cultural and artistic heritage to come up with the unique and elegant pieces that do not look dated but are, in fact, quite contemporary.

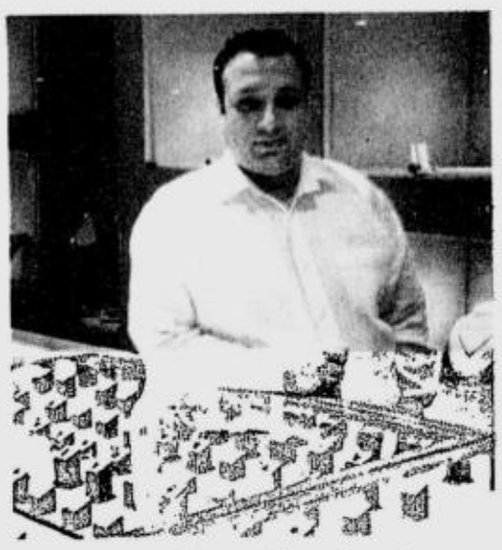
Exclusive

The current exclusive collection features unusual and colored gemstones—tourmalines, emerald, ruby, sapphires of all colors; and cuts and fancy diamonds like pink, yellow and blue.

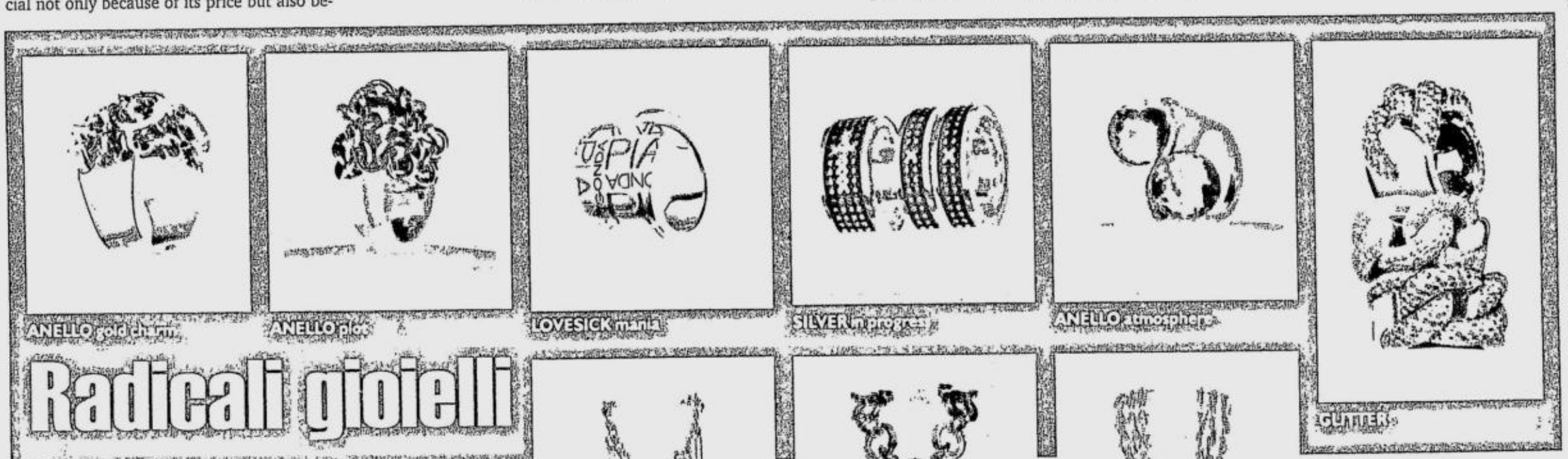
They are fashioned into flower-like rings in brilliant colors, dangling earrings that shimmer like raindrops and necklaces with the daintiest and slimmest of chains that almost disappear, making the pendant look like it is glued to the skin.

At Mod Milano, each diamond purchase comes with a certificate of authenticity from the Gemologist Institute of America and an International Guarantee Certificate that can be used for insurance and appraisal purposes.

Mod Milano, which opened its only store so far in the Philippines in 2004, is at Unit 28, G/F, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, Cubao, QC. Call 9136145 or 9133209. E-mail jewelry @modmilano.com or visit www.modmilano.com.



FROM a Turkish bazaar, Sinan Batur has gone global.



Radicali gioielli

ITALIAN-ESS" IS THE IDENTIfying mark that has long been synonymous with art, beauty, luxury and elegance. Just what is it in the waters of Italy that makes anything coming from this Mediterranean peninsula world-class? Uncompromising quality, art and true craftsmanship—they have long been the tradition and an integral part of Italian culture and lifestyle.

Yet another Italian luxury collection has made its way to the Manila scene, and in a manner truly befitting. The Pianegonda jewelry line was launched recently in an exclusive cocktail party held at the Embassy Super Club.

The precious pieces, which are finely crafted wearable artwork, were presented in silver trays—reminiscent of divine offerings.

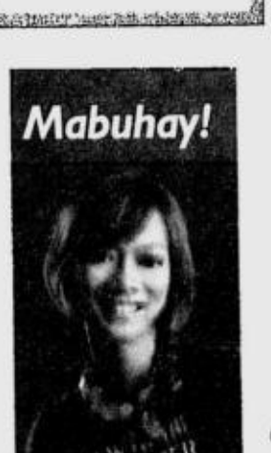
Of course, there were beautiful women all around showcasing the loot on their arms and necklines.

The Italian visionary behind the line, Franco Pianegonda, was himself present at the event to meet and toast Manila's celebrated personalities and society-page regulars.

It was no surprise at all that the dazzling pieces were instant lust-afters. They are now available at the Silver Vault of Rustan's Department stores in Makati and Shangri-la Tower.

Established in Vicenza, Italy in 1994, Pianegonda was the result of the creative and entrepreneurial flair of siblings Franco and Maria Luisa.

Pianegonda's exquisite and innovative pieces express forceful character and a contemporary lifestyle, which are created specifically for men and women with strong and original personalities.



Jenni Epperson

CONFUSION

CACHET d'amour

IRREGULAR choice

FRANCO Pianegonda

Pianegonda jewelry adds to the Italian mystique

With clear attention to style and detail, the brand is known for its substantial and impressive blending of traditional jewelry materials and modern lifestyle sensibilities.

With the vision to bring happiness to the people who wear the jewels, Franco Pianegonda expresses himself and his values through the jewels, "illuminating individual beauty."

Pianegonda's stores are landmarks in Italian cities such as Milan, Venice, Rome, Padua and Palermo. Around the world, it is highlighted in the fashion capitals of Paris, Dubai, Hong Kong, Lisbon, Odessa, Corfu, and Beijing.

Unique jewelry

So what makes Pianegonda distinct from all the rest? It accordingly "creates jewels that still do not exist. A world of silver, gold and gems never seen before, rich of poetry, strength and beauty." In that way, jewels become a part of an individual way of being, symbols of personal values and emotions.

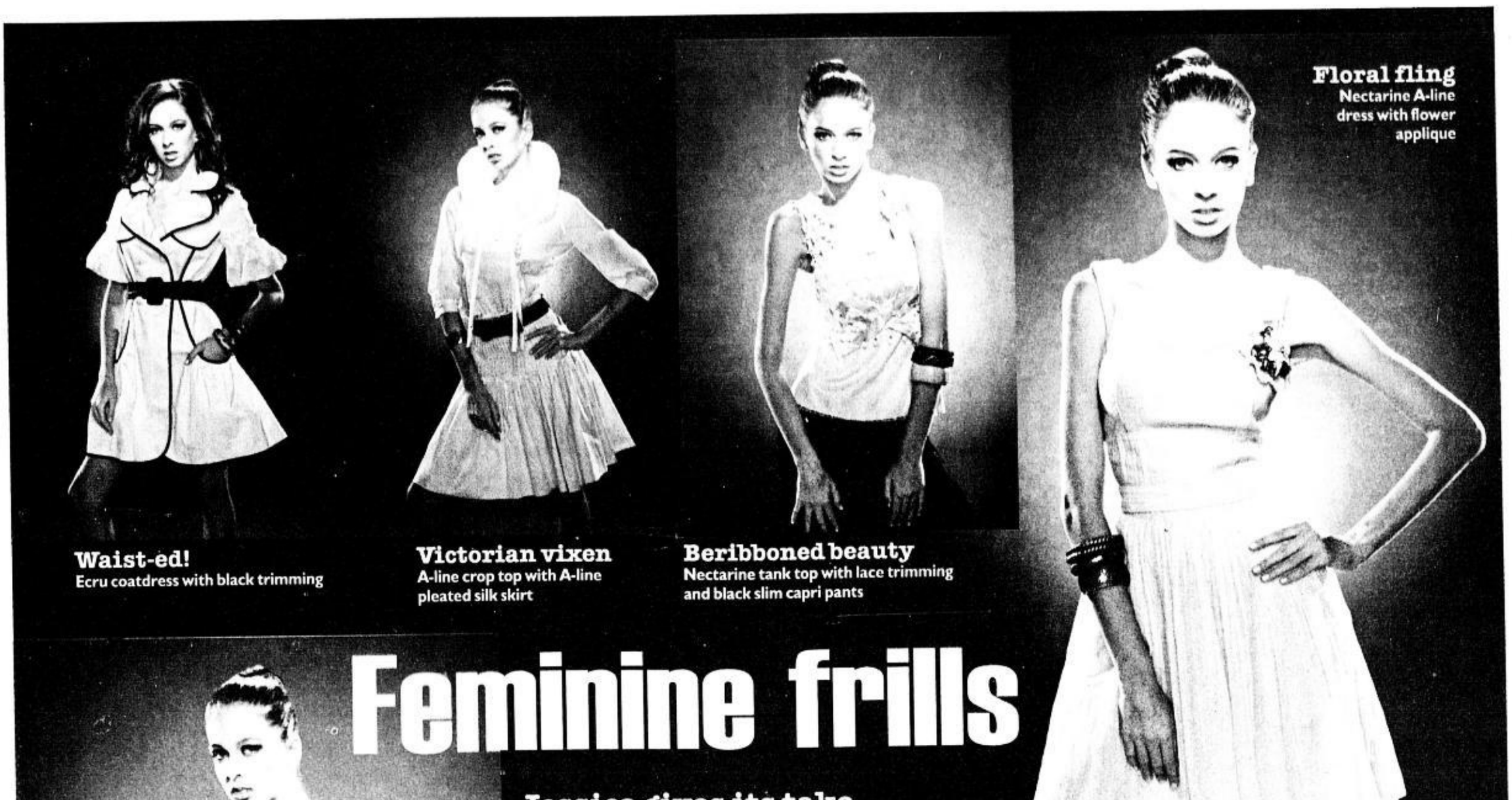
Pianegonda achieves its unique style by rethinking everything—and looking at the everyday in an extraordinary way. One can see this with its attention to the four basic symbols of Pianegonda: the heart, which represents love and life, joy and pain; the key, which means unlocking secrets; the cross, which signifies human and divine values; and the circle which means balance and continuity. These four symbols are reinterpreted in each exquisite piece.

If there is one thing truly and undisputedly Italian about this jewelry line, it is that certain flair for rethinking everything and interpreting it in a new way in accordance with glamour, art and design.

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

PURE love

CLOISON d'amour



Waist-ed!
Ecru coatdress with black trimming

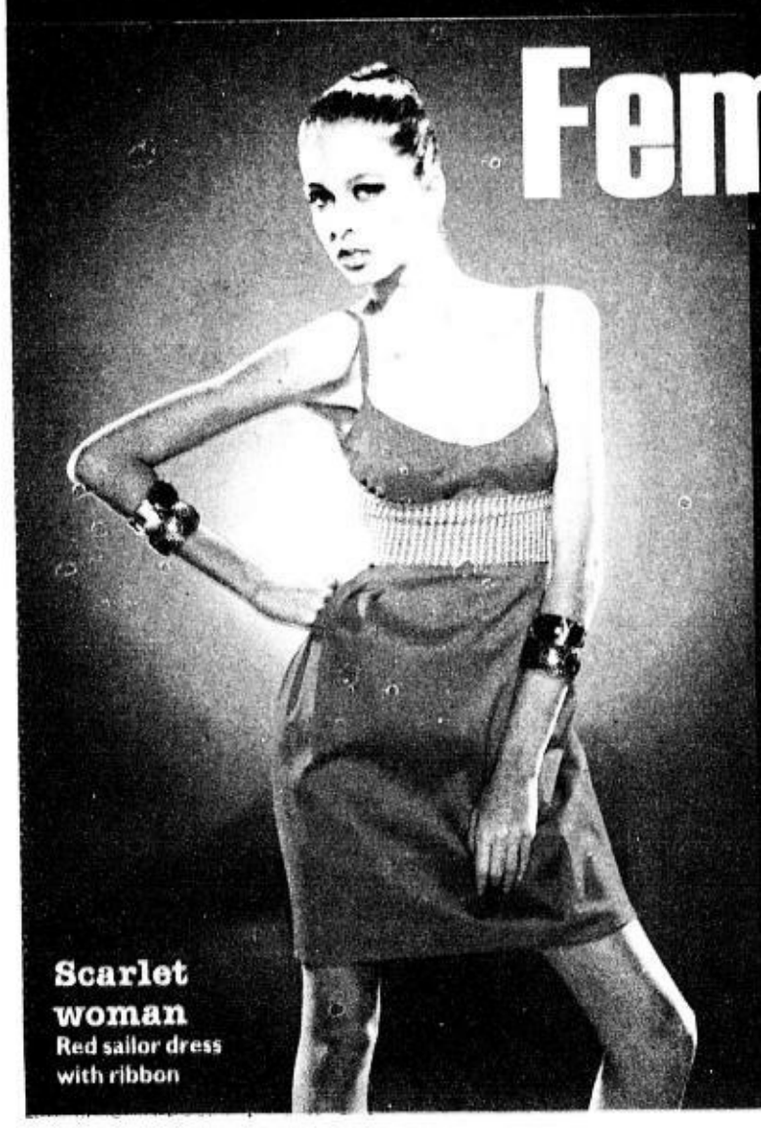
Victorian vixen
A-line crop top with A-line pleated silk skirt

Beribboned beauty
Nectarine tank top with lace trimming and black slim capri pants

Floral fling
Nectarine A-line dress with flower applique

Feminine frills

Jessica gives its take on ultra-feminine fashion



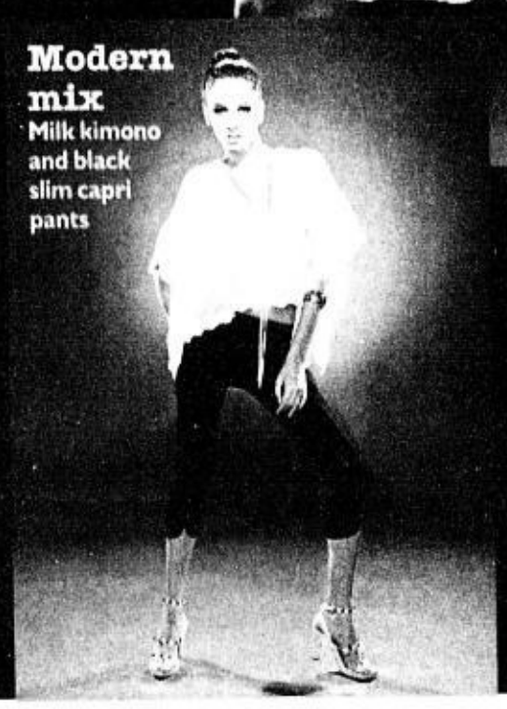
Scarlet woman
Red sailor dress with ribbon

CHIC, WOMANLY FASHION is back. It's time to bring out your inner vixen by donning standout, feminine pieces from Jessica that combines both substance and style.

Go for a modern, romantic look with frills and ruffles that evoke a Victorian feel. Or put on a pretty lace camisole that's all woman yet free-spirited and fun.

Now's your chance to show off that hourglass figure, as cinched waistlines are all the rage. Belts (the wider the better!) are definite must-haves this season.

Fabrication is also a major consideration when dressing in sophisticated, womanly fashions. Go for prints, texture and shine with the use of floral jacquards, mono blossom prints on cotton, paisley prints on silk satin, flower-inspired appliqués and jacquard jersey, with Lurex jacquard as sparkling accents to highlight matte items.



Modern mix
Milk kimono and black slim capri pants

A romantic mix of subdued palettes is also always fresh. You can't go wrong with beige and soft pastels, and even watercolor floral prints on denim wear.

But if you really want to stand out, opt for vibrant splashes of color to accentuate a neutral wardrobe.

Match basics with delicious leather in orange, lime, sky blue or pink sherbet, for example. Or simply don a sexy scarlet dress that will undoubtedly turn heads. *AAS*

Jessica is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. and is available at Shangri-La Plaza Mall, The Podium and Rustan's Makati.

model citizen model citizen model citizen model citizen model citizen model citizen model citizen model citizen model

RAYMOND Gutierrez
RIA Francisco-Prieto
JM Rodriguez
MIA Borromeo
CARMINA Sanchez
ALFRED Vargas
KELLY Misa
TESSA Prieto-Valdes
CHARINA Sarte

Retro-future fashion

RIA Bolivar

THE PREVIEW TEAM. Liz Uy, Vince Uy, Agoo Bengzon, Vicky Montenegro and editor in chief Pauline Suaco-Juan

EVERY YEAR, PREVIEW Magazine, the country's style bible, celebrates the ever-evolving style of the modern Filipina with its Best-Dressed List.

The 10 lovely ladies who made it to this year's list were presented at the Preview Best-Dressed Ball recently held at Embassy, The Fort.

Preview editor in chief Pauline Suaco-Juan introduced the Best-Dressed ladies namely actress and VJ Anne Curtis; general manager for Rockwell Land Malou Pineda; editor-at-large for the soon-to-be-launched Philippine edition of Town and Country Mia Borromeo; news anchor Karen Davila; teacher Tesa Celdran; associate director for Procter & Gamble's consumer connections Pauline Lao; entrepreneur Susiean Go; TV news reporter Marie Lozano; model Valerie de los Santos; and president of the Young Designers Guild Patty Eustaquio.

In a night overflowing with sparkling drinks and cocktails, hip and young Manila partied the night away in retro-futuristic outfits and collectively raised a toast to the future of fashion.

ANNE Curtis
VALERIE de los Santos
MICH Dulce

The Passion For Perfection.

Nokia N76. The computer done beautifully.

The Nokia N76 is the computer done beautifully. This newest model in the Nokia Nseries features the latest in multimedia technology and modern design. It recognizes and meets the demands of the sophisticated, discerning and most of all, passionate mobile user. With its many advanced features and slim, sleek packaging, the Nokia N76 fulfills the individual's strong desire for both style and substance in their lifestyle.

MEGA editor **Vicky Urieta** says, "I tend to be obsessive-compulsive with my work as I am very detail-oriented. Perfect execution, as well as excellent delivery, are always a must." Her dedication and passion makes her accept no compromise when it comes to the style or substance of the magazine. Difficult as it is, it's what drives her to do her job. Not surprisingly, Vicky is as enthusiastic about the Nokia N76 for its functions that are "just as impressive as its exterior." She says the new model in the Nseries embodies "strength, resilience and versatility."

Vicky Urieta
Editor, Mega Magazine

"Right after food, clothing and shelter, should be your mobile phone," says **Rafa Alunan**. Though far from being just a necessity, Rafa likes the Nokia N76 design innovations like the "flip" feature. "Never had a phone that flipped open and close before. Now that I have one, I see why it's always a hit!"

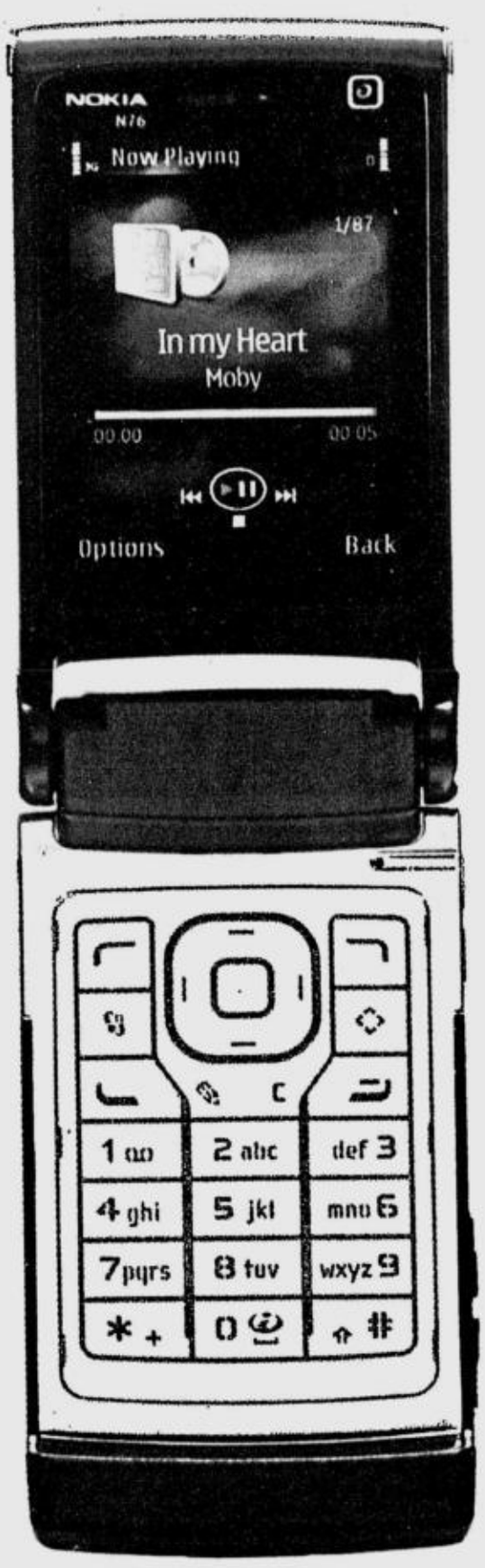
"Fold it when you don't need it and its size is cut in half," he demonstrates. "A gentle push makes the palm-size gizmo into a tall and sexy mobile device."

Rafa Alunan
Entrepreneur

The Nokia N76 is at the forefront of mobile technology and design innovation because of one reason – passion. The Nseries - especially its latest model, the Nokia N76 - was produced with the same passion the individuals above apply in their own fields.

The style and substance of their personalities make for a perfect combination.

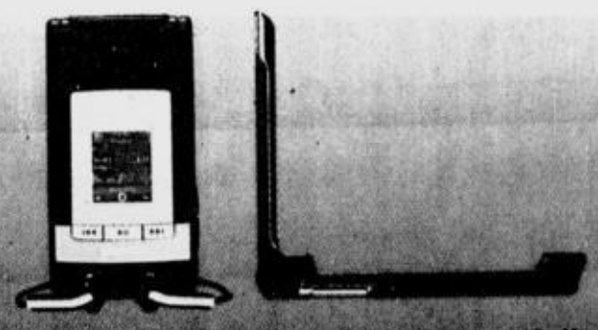
www.nokia.com.ph/n76



NOKIA
Nseries

It's slim, but not starved.

With just one touch to the Nokia N76 multimedia computer, you can groove to up to 1,500 music tracks*, browse the web and capture great pictures with ease. Get your fill of fashion and function with the Nokia N76.



Nokia N76. The computer done beautifully.

© 2007 Nokia

*With optional 2 GB microSD card. 512 MB memory card included.

Nokia Store Branches: Greenbelt 1, Glorietta Digital Xchange, Tomas Morato, Festival Mall, SM City North EDSA, Gaisano Davao, Gateway Mall, Robinsons Manila, Robinsons Galleria, SM Davao, Tacloban City, Lim Ket Kai Center CDO, Alabang Town Center, Mall of Asia, Podium, Greenhills, SM City Cebu, SM Iloilo, SM Bacolod, Rockwell, Fort Bonifacio, Trinoma, Dasmariñas

Make sure your new Nokia Multimedia Computer is protected by a 12-month warranty on parts and services from Nokia Care. Buy only at authorized Nokia retailers.
Visit www.nokia.com.ph to check the retail store nearest you. For more information, text NOKIA PHONE N76 to 2210. P2.50 for Smart and Talas subscribers, P2.00 for Sun subscribers.

ENTERTAINMENT
Editor Emmie G. Velarde
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RACQUEL Reyes and Kalila Aguilos portray crusading nuns.

DepEd endorses this movie

By Marinel R. Cruz

A DIGITAL FILM THAT chronicles the struggles of a nun in her quest to educate tribal children in Ifugao has received an endorsement from the Department of Education (DepEd).

"Haw-Ang" tells the story of Sister Adel, who goes to a farming village in Ifugao to teach catechism and eventually build a schoolhouse. Even as she breaks tribe traditions, Sister Adel makes a big difference in the lives of the townsfolk, especially that of Dacmay, a seven-year-old girl in search of her mother.

The endorsement signed by Teresita Domalanta, director IV of the DepEd-National Capital Region, is addressed to schools division superintendents. "Immediate and wide dissemination of this regional letter is desired," Domalanta said. The letter was dated June 26.

Sister Adel is played by theater actress Kalila Aguilos, who currently plays the evil Queen Femina in the musical "Zsa Zsa Zaturnah."

According to its director Bong Ramos, the movie "primarily campaigns for quality education for the youth, while delving into the various characters' different modes of learning."

Although the story line is fictional, the themes explored in 'Haw-Ang' "faithfully mirror social reality," Ramos added.

The film is shot entirely around the Hungduan rice terraces in Ifugao, Benguet Province. It features first-time child actors from Hapao village in Hungduan. Ramos said 80 percent of the cast members are locals.

"Haw-Ang" will have its world premiere at Tanghalang Aurelio Tolenti-

DEPED/ F2

FIRST-TIME child actors from Hungduan, Ifugao.

10-month-old among 'most influential' stars

NEW YORK—KATIE HOLMES, ROSIE O'Donnell and Anna Nicole Smith's baby daughter Dannielynn are among the names on OK! magazine's list of "most influential" celebrities.

The list of 19, which appears in the mag's latest issue, on newsstands Friday, was separated by editors into six categories: beauty queens, style setters, entertainers, newsmakers, survivors and body shapers.

OK! named Holmes—the 28-year-old wife of Tom Cruise and mother of their 1-year-old daughter, Suri—a "beauty queen" because of her "refreshing girl-next-door look." Beyonce and Jennifer Lopez also made the cut.

LARRY Birkhead and Dannielynn

KATIE HOLMES

O'Donnell, who brought ratings and controversy during her tumultuous tenure on ABC's "The View," made the list of newsmakers, as did Hollywood super couple Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie and "Grey's Anatomy's" T.R. Knight, recipient of a co-star's anti-gay remark

ROSIE O'DONNELL

The youngest on the list: 10-month-old Dannielynn Hope, who was recognized as a survivor because she has been "at the center of Hollywood's most controversial tragedies," the magazine said. Her mother, Anna Nicole Smith, died in Florida in February. A bitter paternity dispute between Howard K. Stern and Larry Birkhead was put to rest months later when DNA tests proved Birkhead was Dannielynn's father.

Top 3 entertainers

The top three entertainers—the "people who decide what we watch and listen to," according to OK!—were "American Idol" judge Simon Cowell, Carrie Underwood and model-TV host Heidi Klum.

Tyra Banks was among the "body shapers" who influence notions of body image. Banks, who was called fat after she was photographed on the beach, later appeared on her syndicated TV talk show in a bathing suit.

Sarah Jessica Parker, Justin Timberlake and Kate Moss were named the most prominent trend-setters in fashion. *AP*

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2 DIE HARD 4
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 DIE HARD 4
1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00

4 TRANSFORMERS
11:35 2:20 5:05 7:50

5 TRANSFORMERS
1:35 4:20 7:05 9:50

6 TRANSFORMERS
12:05 2:50 5:35 8:20

7 FANTASTIC FOUR
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

8 indieSine: GMA Short Films
1:30 3:20 5:10 7:00 8:50

9 PARAISO
12:15 2:35 4:55 7:15 9:35

10 TIYANAKS
1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40

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1 DIE HARD 4
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

2 BUG 12:00 1:55 3:40
FANTASTIC FOUR 4:05 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 TRANSFORMERS
12:15 3:10 6:05 9:00

4 PARAISO
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

5 TIYANAKS
12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 10:00

6 DIE HARD 4
12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00

7 TRANSFORMERS
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

METRO EAST
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1 TRANSFORMERS
2:50 5:50

2 DIE HARD 4
11:50 2:50 5:50 8:50

3 DIE HARD 4
12:20 3:20 6:20 9:20

4 TRANSFORMERS
11:45 2:50 5:50 9:00

5 PARAISO
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00

6 FANTASTIC FOUR
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

7 DIE HARD 4
11:20 2:20 5:20 8:20

8 TIYANAKS
12:10 2:25 4:40 6:55 9:10

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3 DIE HARD 4
4 TIYANAKS
5 TRANSFORMERS
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11:00 2:00 5:00 8:00

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1:30 4:30 7:30

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3:15 5:55 8:35

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12:05 2:45 5:25 8:05

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2 TIYANAKS

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3 DIE HARD 4.0
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3 DIE HARD 4.0
4

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2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TIYANAKS

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3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

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2 TIYANAKS
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3 DIE HARD 4.0
4 DIE HARD 4.0
5 DIE HARD 4.0
6 TRANSFORMERS
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 TIYANAKS
9 FANTASTIC FOUR
10 TRANSFORMERS

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2 TIYANAKS
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4 TRANSFORMERS

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2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TIYANAKS

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3 TIYANAKS
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3 DIE HARD 4.0
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5 TRANSFORMERS

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3 TIYANAKS
4 DIE HARD 4.0

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2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TIYANAKS
4 CAPE KARMA

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Kris Lawrence oper

SHOW TIME

KRIS LAWRENCE

"SEARCH FOR THE STAR IN A MILLION SEASON 2" grand winner Kris Lawrence is the opening act for Christina Aguilera's "Back To Basics" concert tonight at the Fort Bonifacio Global City Open Field.

"It's a great honor to [raise the curtain] for her," says the R&B singer. "Not everyone gets that chance. I'm a very big fan. I saw her perform at the Universal Amphitheater back in 2002, when I was still living in Los Angeles, California."

Kris adds that his favorite Aguilera songs are "I Turn To You," and "Genie in a Bottle."

Party for Callalily fans

To celebrate its recent gold record award for the album "Destination XYZ" (Sony BMG) and its first year anniversary as a band, Callalily is inviting its fans to the Callalistas Grand Eye Ball party tomorrow, 7 p.m. at the Eastwood Central Plaza, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City.

Fans may bring or buy a copy of the "Destination" CD at the venue to gain entry to the event. The band will perform songs from the album.

Is Orange & Lemons still intact?

Rumors about vocalist/lead guitarist Clem Castro's leaving Orange and Lemons will be clarified when the band promotes its new album, "Moonlane Gardens" (Universal Records), with a concert tomorrow at SM Megamall.

JED MADELA

'Matira Matibay'

Parokya Ni Edgar performs live on Sunday, July 8, 6 p.m. at SM Pampanga.

This is part of the band's ongoing mall tour to promote its "Matira Matibay" album.

Mall shows

• Erik Santos performs in mall shows to promote his new album, "Your Love," tomorrow at SM Cebu and on July 15 at Blue Wave Marikina. He will also star in a show for BPI Express Padala on July 21 (SM Cagayan). Then on Oct. 19, Erik holds a major concert at the Araneta Coliseum. Call 435-1108 or 435-1120.

• Fresh from successful performances in the US, Jed Madela returns to promote his "Only Human" album with a show on Sunday, July 8, 5 p.m. at SM Megamall.

Product promo tour

Ai Ai delas Alas' endorsement of a new detergent soap brings her on a product promotional tour on July 15 (Tarlac), July 22 (... tipolo, Pasig, Mariki... Manila, Quezon City) (Cavite), Aug. 11 (L... gas), Aug. 25 (Cebu) (Bacolod), Sept. 8 (Da... Oro), Sept. 23 (Naga) Sept. 30 (Baguio).

She holds a major ... Araneta Coliseum. ... 435-1108 or 435-112...

'Idol' in concert

Reymond Sajor, a fi... ist of the recent "Ph... pine Idol" singing ta... search, performs live concert on July 14, 6 p... at SM City Lucena C... ma 4.

Reymond is also se... compete in the ... gospel, contempo... and Broadway solo v... categories at the ... World Championshi... (WCOPA) in Burbank. Aug. 5.

Gerard Salonga i... pieces.

Violin prodigy

Sixteen-year-old ... Valdes performs in a ... ing tenor Sal Malaki ... Theater, Ortigas Aven...

Valdes, a scholar u... olinist Coke Bolipata ... ternational audience.

Andy Serkis: ...

Theory of Relativity. It's about Einstein and a British scientist named **Arthur Stanley Eddington**. In the war, science became the property of the military and countries. So it was Britain versus Germany and suddenly, the scientific community wasn't allowed to communicate with each other."

Andy is also trying his hand at directing. "I have three directorial feature projects that I'm trying to get off the ground," he revealed. "Last year, I directed a game for PlayStation 3 called 'Heavenly Sword,' which is coming out soon. To me, the games are atrocious at the moment because the content is so poor. It's just about hack and slash and killing people. But there is a way, for instance, of bringing Shakespeare into games. The motion capture technology has reached a level where you can achieve fantastic performance." He also stars as King Bohan in "Heavenly Sword."

Big passion

"God, it sounds like I'm setting myself up for a big fall, isn't it?" he said with a laugh when congratulated about all these breaks coming his way.

To think we had not discussed his other pursuit yet. "Mountaineering has been a very big passion for me, a big hobby," he stated. "I'd like to climb the Himalayas."

Another passion for the actor is his concern for Iraq. He explained, "My father is Iraqi but of Armenian descent. Two generations back, our surname was Serkisian. My family moved and settled in Baghdad. My mother got tuberculosis when she was at a boarding school in England. She went to convalesce in Baghdad where she met my father who's a doctor. They got married. I have a lot of relatives who are still there in Baghdad. Some have left because of the war."

So when he was asked for his views on the Iraq War, Andy quipped, "How long have you got?"

He launched into the topic with gusto: "I know for a fact that **Saddam Hussein** was a deeply atrocious human being. My father was imprisoned by him for a certain amount of time. But I thought that the grounds for which ... Iraq were totally wron... up a Western Imperiali... East. The United Natio... that time. Those are my...

Totally against

He declared with fer... Iraq War. I've marched ... know that even at the ... vociferous about it. I p... the press because Ame... war three days before. ... has been a huge catas... ians have died. Iraq ha... stood by the military f... UK."

What did his poster s... Oil.' It was a very simpl...

Later, over lunch, An... told us that he would r... in the musical stage pro... offered to him. But he ... stage, including an ap... "Cabaret."

Prequel plans

And what about "Th... quel to "The Lord of th... do that if Peter Jackson... fortunately, Peter is in ... sales revenue of "LOTR"... studio behind the trilo... rights to make "The Ho...

So in the meantime, ... whether Andy will repr... performance, and Pe... script that reflects on ... "Longford."

E-mail the column... hoo.com and read his bl... www.inquirerbloggers.n...

DepEd endorses . . .

no of the Cultural Center of the Philippines on July 26, 6 p.m., as part of the 3rd Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival. It will be shown in SM Cinemas starting Aug. 8.

Indie Sine features

Meanwhile, Auraeus Solito's coming-of-age story "Tuli," which was included in the 2007 Sundance Film Festival's Spectrum segment, will be screened at Robinsons Galleria's Indie Sine, July 11 to 17.

Paolo Villaluna and ... story of a man mesmer... model and pretends h... 18 and 24.

Lito Tañada's "Han... Maraming Salamat po" ... to 31.

"Isnats," by Mike Da... and 7; and John Torr... Aug. 8 to 14.

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INMENT

ns Aguilera concert

Pampanga), July 28 (An-
na), July 29 (Caloocan,
. Aug. 4 (Laguna), Aug. 5
ucena), Aug. 12 (Batan-
, Sept. 1 (Iloilo), Sept. 2
vao), Sept. 9 (Cagayan de
, Sept, 29 (Dagupan) and

concert on Nov. 16 at the
Call .
).

REYMOND SAJOR

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1th
ps ..of Performing Arts
California from July 28 to

s arranging his contest

violin prodigy Joseph
classical concert headlin-
on July 27 at the Meralco
ue, Pasig.
dergoing training with vi-
has played before an in-

* * *

From page F4

America went into war with
. It's actually about setting
st stronghold in the Middle
s was completely ignored at
personal beliefs."

or, "I was totally against the
gainst it. Some of you might
Oscars in 2003, I was quite
lled out a poster in front of
rica had just gone into the
I was very upset about it. It
rophe—thousands of civil-
a culture that is not under-
m the United States or the

y? "It just said, 'No War for
statement."
ly (he's a pesco-vegetarian)
ot consider playing Gollum
duction, in case the role was
dded that he has sung on-
pearance as the Emcee in

Hobbit," the planned pre-
Rings" trilogy? "I will only
is directing it," he said. Un-
legal dispute over the DVD
with New Line Cinema, the
y and the one that has the
bit."
while we await the word on
se his Gollum role, enjoy his
er Morgan's scintillating
power and conscience, in

st at rvnepales_5585@ya-
og, "The Nepales Report," on
et/nepalesreport.

From page F1

Ellen Ramos' "Ilusyon," the
zed by the beauty of a nude
is a painter, runs from July

gang Dito na lamang at
will be shown from July 25

ñalan, runs from August 1
s' "Todo Todo Teros," from

AIAI DE LAS ALAS

July 8
Parokya ni Edgar at SM Pampanga
Jed Madela at SM Megamall

July 9
Art Manuntag at RJTV Bar. Call 899-1658

July 12
NATFand Breaking Silence at RJTV Bar. Call 899-1658

July 14
Reymond Sajor at SM Lucena

July 15
Erik Santos at Blue Wave Marikina

July 16
Dale Adriatico at RJTV Bar. Call 899-1658

July 18
Instrumental Nite at RJTV Bar. Call 899-1658

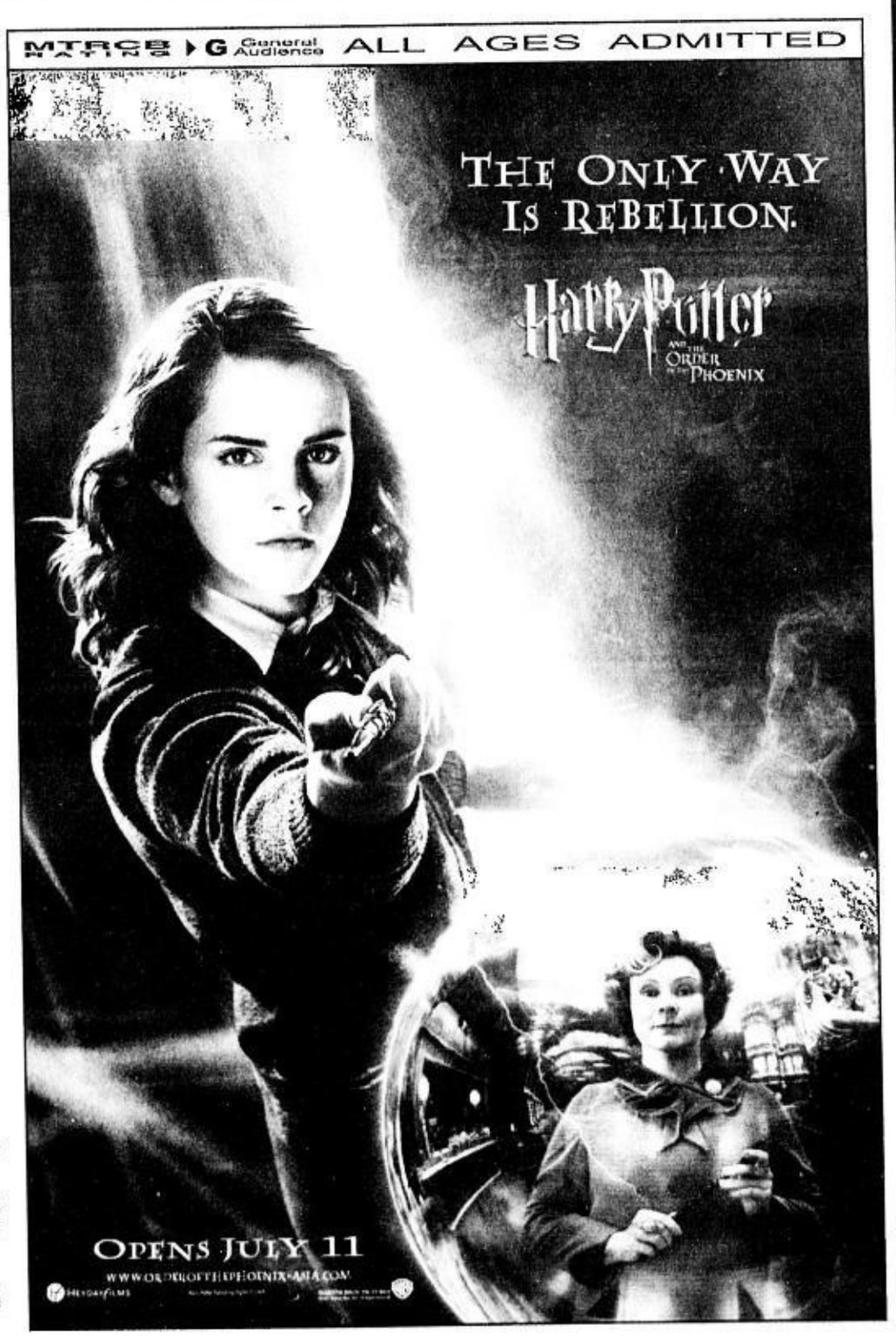
July 19
NATFand Breaking Silence at RJTV Bar. Call 899-1658

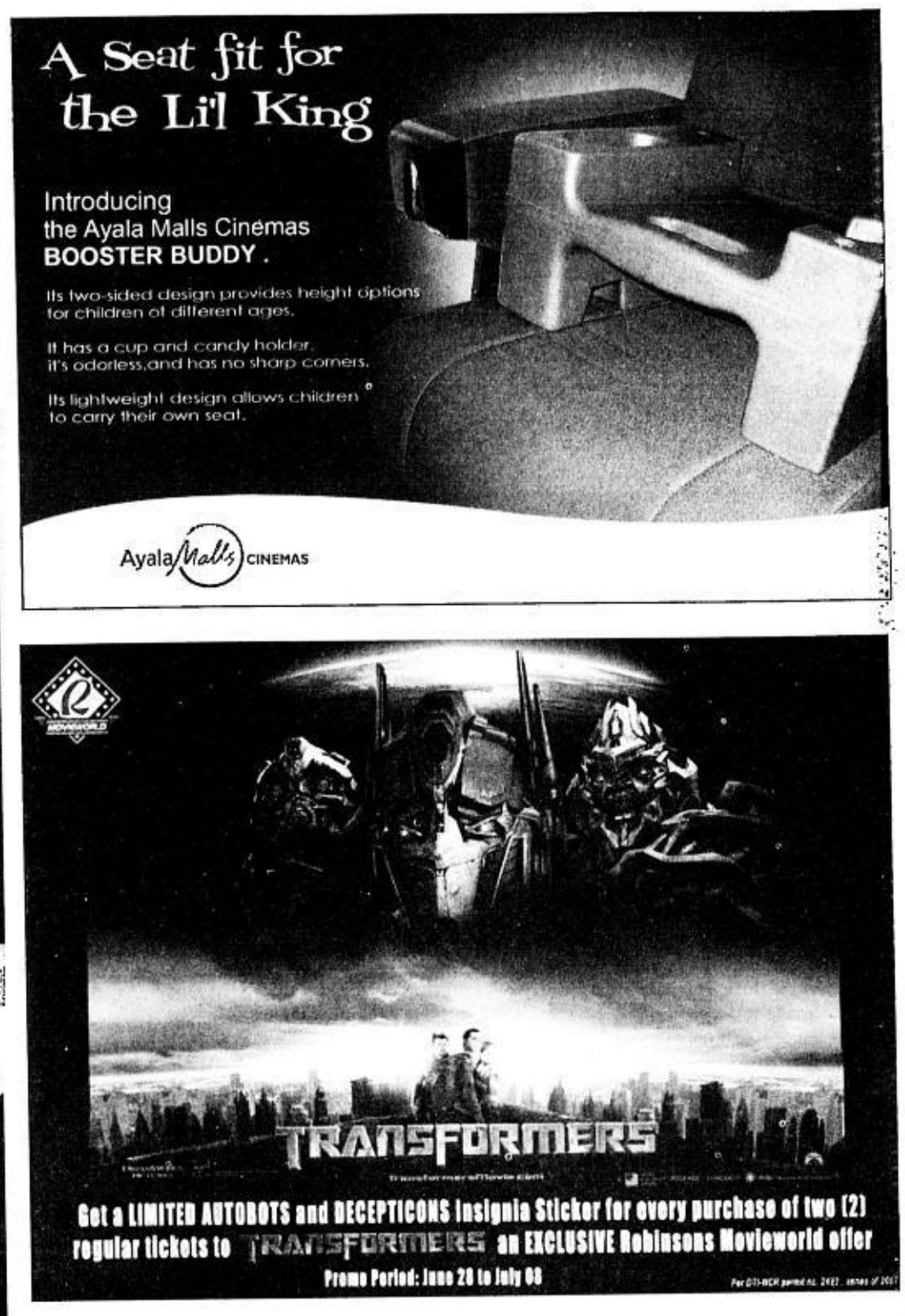
'Potter' contest on HBO

VIEWERS OF "HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET of Fire" on HBO on July 8, 9 p.m. may win T-shirts and baseball caps by simply answering this question: "When and what time does 'Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire' premiere on HBO?"

Answers with the viewer name and contact number may be sent to ph_hbopromo@yahoo.com.ph with the title HBO—Philippine Daily Inquirer contest.

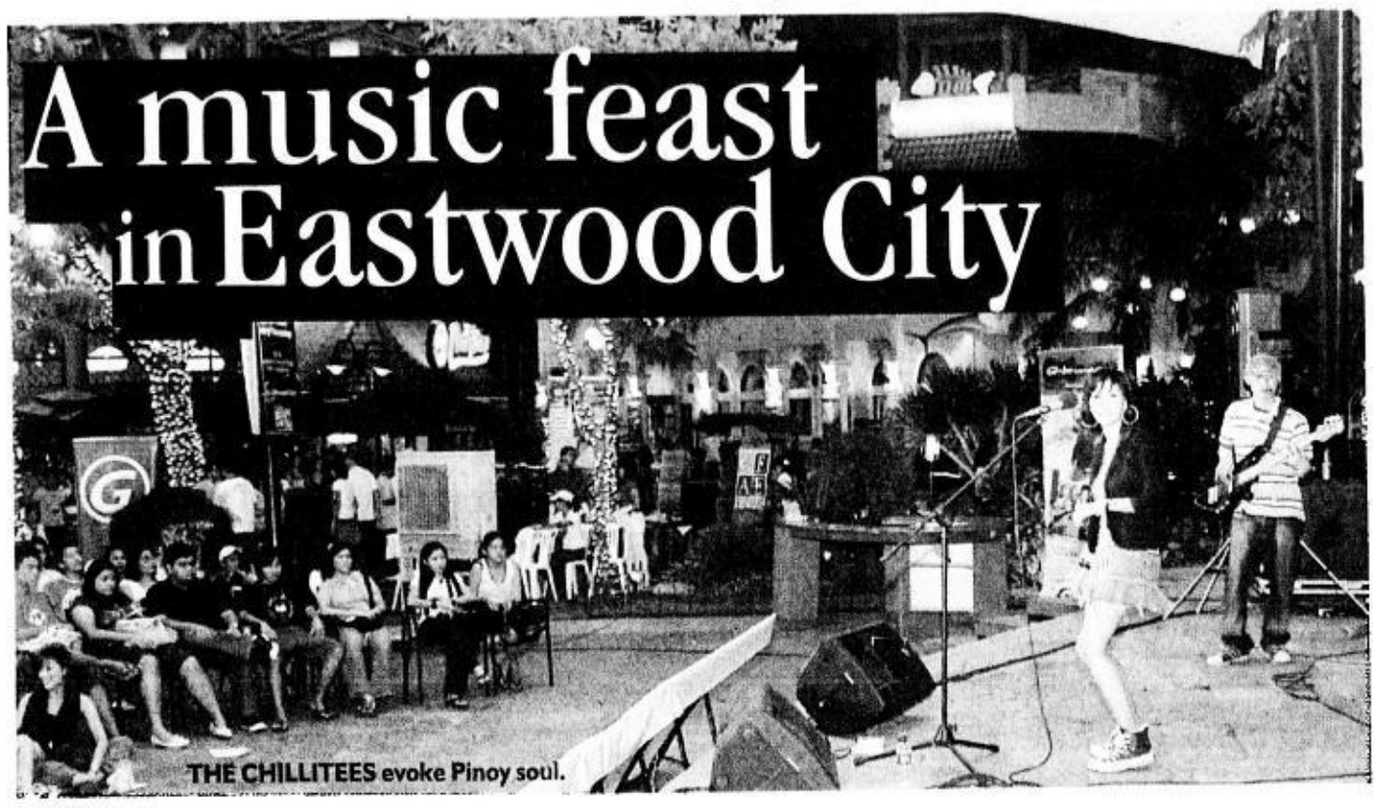
Ten sets of T-shirts and baseball caps are in store for lucky viewers.





BEST COPY AVAILABLE

A music feast in Eastwood City



THE CHILLITEES evoke Pinoy soul.

MUSIC fans have fun at the Central Plaza.

NOEL Cabangon covers "Himig Natin."

JOHNNY Alegre plays jazz-rock.

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

EASTWOOD CITY IN LIBIS, QUEZON City is not just a bustling community of condos, offices, call centers, banks, bars, and restaurants.

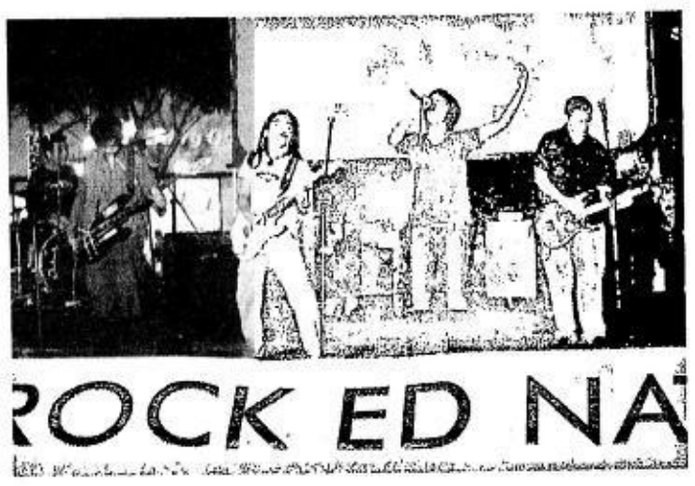
Near the middle of the sprawling, 16-hectare complex is the Eastwood Central Plaza, an entertainment venue that presents a regular calendar of concerts for free.

On Saturday night, a young crowd watched some 14 bands and solo artists affiliated with Rock Ed Philippines, a volunteer group working to provide venues and events for alternative education.

Second anniversary

Gang Badoy, a teacher at the Ateneo and founder/executive director of Rock Ed, said her group staged the concert to celebrate its second anniversary and keep people informed of its mission to get young Pinoys interested in helping the country through volunteer work.

At the concert, all musicians played for free. Had it rained, it wouldn't have mattered, because the Eastwood Central Plaza is built with a tent that could shelter at least 500 people.



REVIEW

GINILING Festival keeps the crowd in stitches.

There were still empty seats when jazz guitarist Johnny Alegre took the stage with a bass player and drummer. The instrumentals the trio played were fused with rock overtones.

A new band called Peryodiko showed a lot of promise—notwithstanding the absence of its drummer. We thought he sounded so much like Ebe Dancel of Sugarfree. No wonder, because it turned out he was Vin Dancel, brother of Ebe and former member of Twisted Halo.

Another new band, Giniling Festival, kept the audience in stitches. This band seemed to have taken slices of Parokya Ni Edgar's music but made it more provocative with risqué lyrics and a wilder punk-metal sound. It played songs with titles like "McJolly" (about fast-food joints), "Dodo" (fake boobs), and "Letter to Angelina Jolie" (which reeked of an absurd imagination).

Revised lyrics

Noel Cabangon, reportedly Rock Ed's first musician volunteer, performed an acoustic cover of Juan De La Cruz band's "Himig Natin"—with some of the lyrics revised to suit the occasion: *"Tayo'y magsama-sama/Sa bayang may pag-asa…"*

The next song, "Ako'y Isang Mabuting Pilipino," was a Cabangon original which sought to reverse the nasty habits people display every day on the streets.

Still another new band, the Chillitees, was described as "groundbreaking." Turned out, it was one of the groups being hyped as progenitors of Pinoy soul.

Jazz, soul, R&B

Fronted by a female vocalist, the Chillitees went on to do an upbeat version of "Saan," a ballad made popular by Tillie Moreno in the 1970s. The music had elements of jazz, soul and R&B, including some house beats thrown in. The lyrics, however, seemed out of place, especially since the singer was dancing: *"Saan, saan ako nagkamali/Ba't luha ang iyong sukli…"*

But everything looked fine and dandy when the Chillitees singer asked the roly-poly front man of Kala to jam in the next number. It was fun seeing a heavy-set guy shake his body like he had wings on his feet.

It was almost midnight when the rain fell. Even then, the Eastwood Central Plaza looked festive, bright lights illuminating the bustle of activity around it—parents treating their children to dinner, couples sipping coffee, and music fans hanging out, waiting for the other bands to play.

Andy Serkis: From Gollum, King Kong to Einstein

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—AS WE REPORTed here last April, director **Quentin Tarantino** told us that he wanted to visit the Philippines, which he came to know via the films of **Cirio H. Santiago** and **Eddie Romero.**

The walking encyclopedia of world cinema said he wanted to hang out with Cirio and Eddie in their home turf. Well, Quentin is going to do that and more when he goes to Manila in August.

The folks behind the Cinemanila International Film Festival, led by Amable **"Tikoy" Aguiluz VI**, have decided to give the Lifetime Achievement Award to the writer and filmmaker of such groundbreaking films as "Pulp Fiction," "Reservoir Dogs" and the "Kill Bill" series. The awarding is bound to be one of the highlights of the film fest, which runs from Aug. 8 to 19.

Big leap

From an ape to a genius is quite a leap, but that's exactly what **Andy Serkis**, also known for playing Gollum in "The Lord of the Rings," is doing.

QUENTIN TARANTINO

It's a tribute to the actor's genius that, after supplying the body movements and facial expressions of King Kong, he is playing **Albert Einstein** in a new film, "Einstein and Eddington."

We interviewed him in London about his HBO movie "Longford," where, unlike his good-evil conflicted Gollum in **Peter Jackson**'s smash trilogy, he is evil-to-the-bone murderer and chillingly good at it. If you see this film showing on your HBO channel in the Philippines or wherever you are in the globe, do sit down and watch it.

"Longford" is based on a true story about a Catholic convert, **Frank Pakenham**, the Earl of Longford (played by **Jim Broadbent**, Oscar and Golden Globe Best Supporting Actor in 2001 for "Iris"), who fought for the release of notorious British child murderer **Myra Hindley** (**Samantha Morton**, who was in "Minority Report" and "In America").

The film surprised us with its thought-provoking moments that subtly touch on the principles of our faith: humility, compassion, forgiveness and redemption. Andy plays **Ian Brady**, who was convicted in the '60s along with Myra, for the brutal rape and murder of several children. Ian is still alive and serving his life sentence.

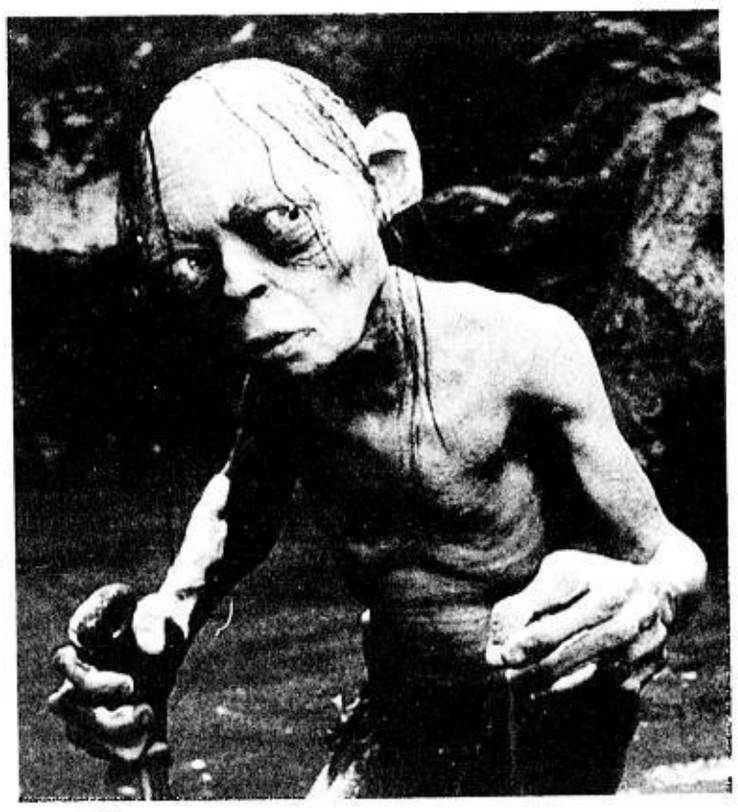
Peter Morgan, who won a slew of awards for writing "The Queen," has done it again. There are quiet moments here, especially in the dialogue between Longford and Myra and between Longford and his wife, Elizabeth (**Lindsay Duncan**), that unexpectedly made us reflect on our Catholic precepts. Jim (who just landed a role as a professor on "Indiana Jones 4"), Samantha, Lindsay ("Rome," also by HBO) and Andy, who delivers Peter's best lines, acting-wise, all give impeccable performances.

Aroused

On the eve of our separate interviews with the cast, we popped our DVD screener copy of "Longford" into our laptop to watch the film again, expecting to fall asleep at some point due to jet lag but Peter's lines, enhanced by Tom Hooper's direction, kept us up till the ending.

Steven D. Greydanus, in his review for the National Catholic Register, echoed our sentiments: "Though thematically similar to 'Dead Man Walking,' 'Longford' grapples more directly and thoughtfully with religious themes, and doesn't glorify its eccentric, somewhat tragic protagonist the way 'Dead Man Walking' extols Sister Préjean. There are hard questions about Longford's efforts on Hindley's behalf. Did he need another cause after losing the leadership of the Lords? Had he fallen under Hindley's spell? Was she beyond redemption? Was he only fooling himself reaching out to her? Above all, was it ultimately worth it? 'Longford' provides no easy answers, but its engagement of the questions is among the most thought-provoking and rewarding I've seen in any film."

ANDY SERKIS ...



... as Gollum

No resemblance

What strikes us about Andy every time we see him is his unusually thick hair. The 43-year-old actor bears no resemblance at all to his computer-generated character, Gollum, of course. The London native's dark good looks come from his Armenian heritage. His father worked as a doctor in Baghdad when he was growing up. So Andy and his family split time between the Iraqi capital and London, where he attended a Catholic school for boys. He was a rising stage and TV actor in England when Peter Jackson offered him the role of a lifetime.

In the press con held at the Covent Garden Hotel, we asked Andy to comment on Peter's script. "Peter wrote three short scenes for my character, Ian Brady, and yet you get a very strong sense of who that man is," said the father of three kids. He has been married since 2002. "Peter is a great wordsmith. The dialogue seemed to ring very true from what my understanding of Ian was. It's funny, though, that Ian wrote to the media and said that Jim's portrayal of Longford was absolutely accurate while my portrayal of him was deeply inaccurate (laughter). He thought he had been terribly and unfairly represented. What can you do?"

When our colleague asked him what it was like to act before the cameras without having to wear a CGI suit, Andy politely answered, "That was five or six years ago. I've done other roles since then."

He continued: "The King Kong and Gollum roles were fantastic. Hopefully, I will continue playing CG roles because I think motion and performance capture is an extraordinary art form which is progressing and being used more in film. I never draw a distinction between CG and straightforward roles. To me, they're the same—it's just a different way of recording a performance. One is digital and the other is celluloid, but the heart, soul and creation of a character are identical. I approached Ian Brady in the same way that I approached Gollum or King Kong."

Since the musical stage version of "The Lord of the Rings" opened in London on the week of our talk, with **Michael Therriault**, the actor playing Gollum getting good notices, we were curious if Andy has seen the production. "I haven't," he replied. "I'd love to see it. I'm fascinated to see how Gollum's role is done. It doesn't surprise me that the actor playing Gollum is getting good reviews. Gollum is a really fantastic character—probably one of the most complex characters written in the book, film and now on the stage.

Great material

"An actor is only as good as the words that he's given. That is not to be underestimated. I truly believe that. There are brilliant actors out there. Many actors don't get to play great roles. I was deeply fortunate to play Gollum. I was also very fortunate to play Ian Brady because when you're given great material to work with, you step up to the mark."

On playing Einstein, Andy said that he's playing the most brilliant scientist and mathematician of the 20th century when he was in his 30s. "It's not the Einstein that we all know and love—the Andy Warhol picture of him with a crazy mop of hair," he stated to laughter. "The movie takes place between 1914 and 1918, during the First World War when he was developing his

ANDY/F2

SERKIS, R, in a scene from "Longford," with Jim Broadbent, foreground, who plays the title role.

LIVING STARS

Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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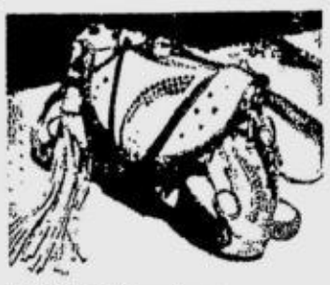
INSIDE

■ Sabina gets a bubble bash Party! Party! G4

■ Who walks her dog in a stroller? Tail Tales G3



BEYONCÉ bag from. Bahrain

LV PURSE, a gift from Vic del Rosario

SHADES by Guess

HER STYLE: "Not too conservative. Not too daring. Just right."

FROM Erik Santos, a Calvin Klein duffel

For Sarah, it's in the bag

Singing champ seems just like a girl playing dress up at the Big Dome

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by August de la Cruz

BY RAJO Laurel

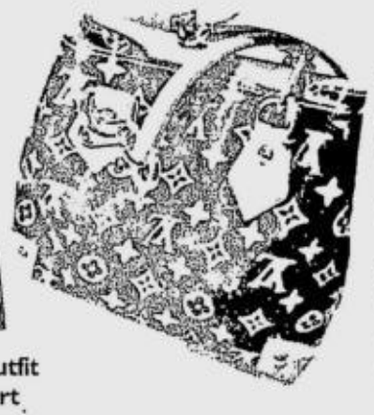
SINGER SARAH GERONIMO was once had to reject a gown because it was "too sexy—backless, with a plunging neckline, and made of fiber glass."

Sarah was only 15 then; it was non-negotiable. With dispatch, her mom Divine found a replacement gown.

The singer recounts, laughing, "*Masagwa tingnan. Buto-buto lang ang makikita sa akin* (It looked distasteful. People were going to see only my bones)."

SKETCH of a Rajo outfit for the July 14 concert

ANOTHER LV from Boss Vic



GOWNS, COLORS

Now 18, Sarah has matured considerably in her choice of clothes.

For her second solo concert at the Araneta Coliseum, "Sarah Geronimo in Motion," on July 14, she is working with designers Rajo Laurel and Rhett Eala, who are whipping up outfits just right for her age. "Wholesome, not too conservative, but not too daring, either," she says. "Plus bright colors."

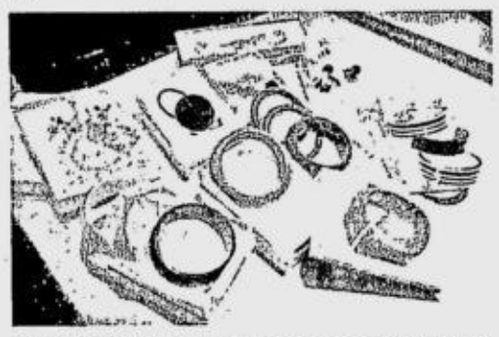
Sarah volunteers, "The most expensive items in my closet are gowns by Tito Rajo." For this concert, Laurel has designed a dress, catsuit and pantsuit to emphasize the singer's youthful vibe. There is only one gown—a flowing red number, for the finale.

A third designer, Edwin Ocampo, has volunteered a gown. Sarah says, "I met him in Qatar, when I had a show there. I heard that he designs for royalty." They hit it off and, when he heard of her upcoming show, "he promised to come here and bring me a Swarovksi-studded gown."

ACCESSORIES

She considers herself fortunate because she receives plenty of gifts from friends, even strangers.

The bejeweled watch she's wearing for this pictorial is a gift from a Bahrain princess, Sheika Haifa.



BANGLES and bracelets are mostly by Bebe.

"*Natuwa sa amin* (she became fond of us), and gave gifts to everyone—(fellow singer) Mark Bautista, the entire entourage, even my siblings."

A crystal rosary she brings everywhere was given by a nun from her school, Dominican College. The red Prada wallet in her black Louis Vuitton purse are also presents—the wallet from actress Beth Tamayo, the bag from Viva head Vic del Rosario.

BAGS, BAGS...

Boss Vic has also given her a white Louis Vuitton bag. A lot of her bags, in fact, are gifts.

Another fellow singer, Erik Santos, gave her a yellow Calvin Klein duffel bag. "When we go abroad together, he asks about it," she says.

The companies she endorses have also sent her bags—from Jollibee, a DKNY; from Charmee, a Lacoste. Road manager Chai gave her a white Nike duffel; her friend Sandy, a pink-and-black bag from London.

The most special piece in her bag collection is a crystal-studded Bracher Emden from Bahrain—given by the shop owner, a friend of the princess. The only other person said to own another one like it is (US singer) Beyoncé Knowles.

BANGLES, BROOCHES...

Sarah gleefully shows off favorite earrings from over 30 pairs laid out in front of her. "I love the ones that look like toys," she says, pointing to some shaped like boats, hats and anchors.

In a lot of ways, Sarah is still very much a kid playing dress up.

Bracelets and bangles by Bebe are faves.

Most of her costume jewelry was bought by mom in the US. "We love bargain sales," Sarah enthuses. "We often go to Wal-Mart, too, where I buy lots of makeup and accessories."

To keep the extensive collection organized, Divine had plastic containers custom-made for the bangles, brooches, earrings and necklaces.

CLOTHES, CAPS

For clothes, she goes to US outlet stores like Guess, Gap and Bebe. "I'm usually just in casual shirts and jeans," Sarah says. She advises other young women to be practical. "Prioritize—don't buy something just because it's branded."

One of her few indulgences is a souvenir cap bought at the Celine Dion show in Las Vegas.

Again, most of her caps are gifts and the most special to her is the one given by Nickelodeon when she won Kids Choice for Wannabe Personality three years ago.

OUT OF THE CLOSET

ONE MORE Rajo original

SHOES

Sarah has quite a collection of footgear.

Her mom keeps the shoes in clear plastic boxes. A favorite pair is the silver strappies that, Divine says, was bought by a friend of hers in Thailand. "This pair is very sturdy," Sarah insists. "I've been using it for three years."

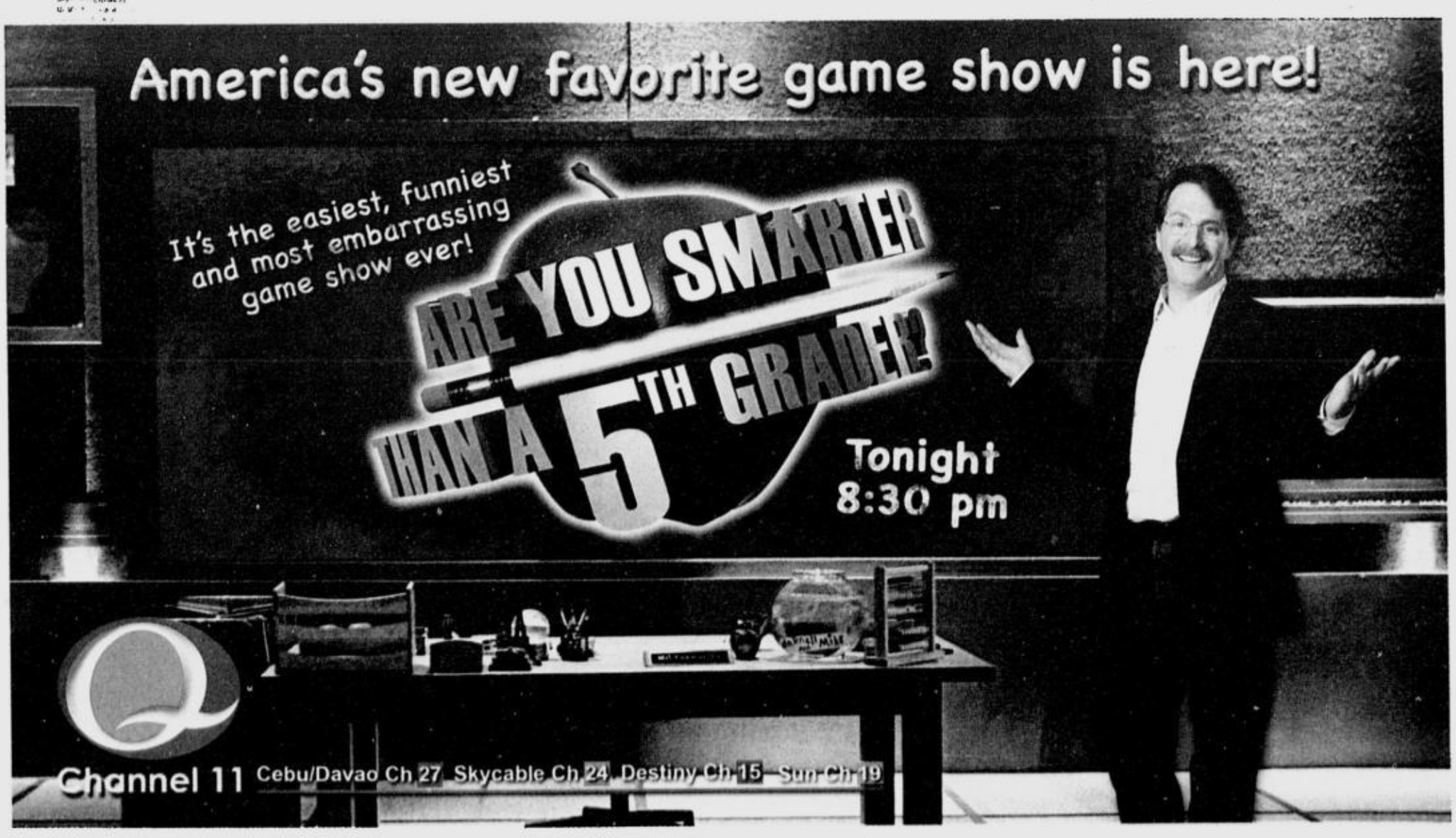
Shoes can make or break a performance, she knows. For the Araneta concert, Sarah requested the designers to come up with comfortable shoes. "I have lots of dance numbers," she explains.

Since this concert will be toured next month in the US, Sarah is right: A good pair will go a long, long way.

COMFORT should be the top priority in picking footwear, she says.

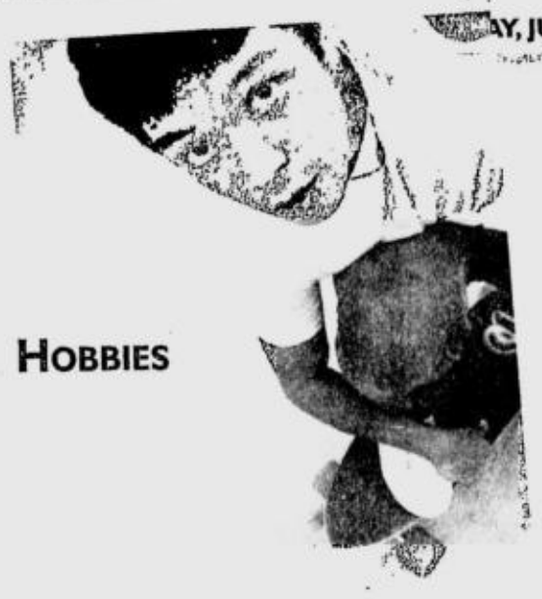
CHEER FACTOR

WAXING MAGICAL
This is the wax image of British actor Daniel Radcliffe at Madame Tussauds Museum in central London. The 17-year-old "Harry Potter" star is the youngest actor immortalized in wax. "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" had its European premiere in London July 3. AFP



JERICHO ROSALES

NOW THAT JERICHO ROSALES IS TOO BUSY WITH WORK TO HIT the beach and go surfing, he settles for skateboarding. "*Pareho kasi ang* feel," he told Living Stars. He even convinced his girlfriend, actress Heart Evangelista, to take on the sport. "We skateboard everywhere—in Antipolo (where he lives), in Makati (where Heart lives), and sometimes all over the UP grounds," he said. He took this photo himself while on his new toy. *Marinel R. Cruz*



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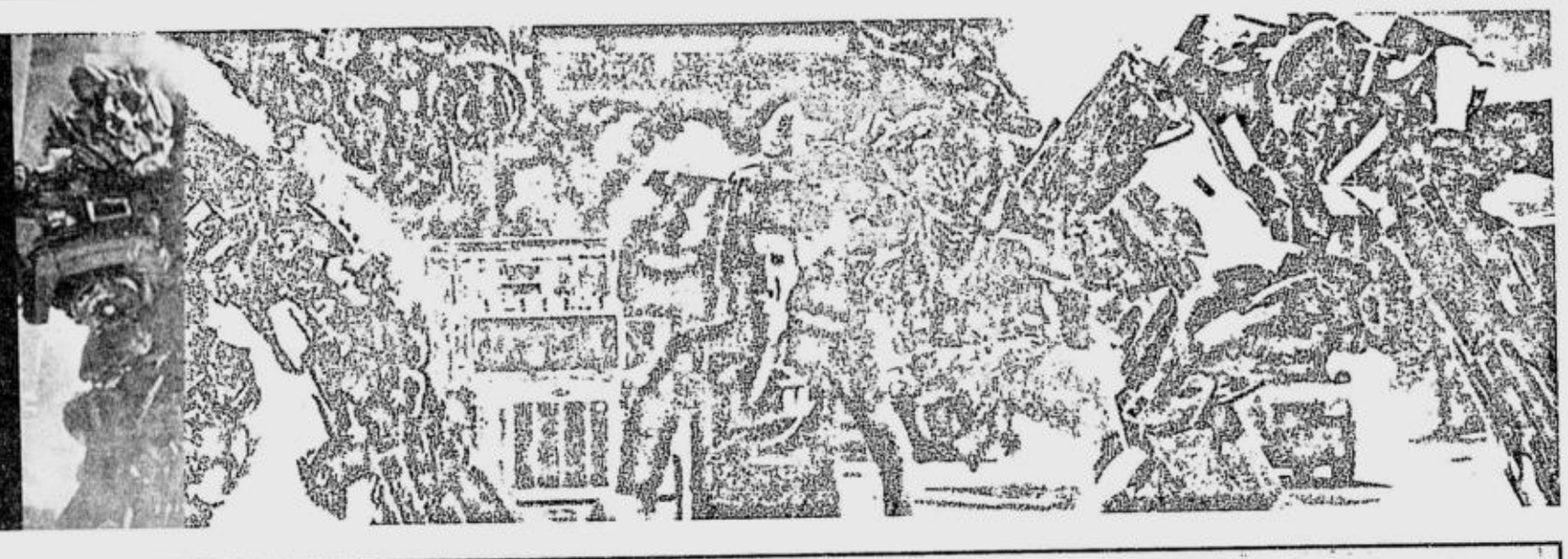

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	3 DIE HARD 4.0 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 DIE HARD 4.0 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 TRANSFORMERS GUARANTEED SEATS	
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Ayala MUSEUM	Damian Domingo: The First Great Filipino Painter Exhibit - June 19 to Jan. 5, 2008 Pioneers of Philippine Art - June 16 to January 5, 2008 For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.com
TriNoma	BARBIE BIRTHDAY BASH July 1 (2PM & 4PM) at the Activity Center HUMAN'S RICO BLANCO EXHIBIT July 2 to 15 (Mall Hours) at the 1st Level Exhibit Area

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A carousel ride, a fat photo op

STILL ON THE RECENT LAUNCH OF KODAK'S BID FOR THE GUINness Book of Records for the World's Biggest Photo Album, and show biz celebs joining the fun by sharing their favorite snapshots:

Boxer/actor Juddha Paolo sent a recent image of himself with his sisters enjoying a carousel ride in the US, above. "For me, this perfectly captures the term 'kids at heart,' which the three of us still are," Juddha said.

TV host Patty Laurel shared this one, left, taken in Hong Kong, during a party welcoming the Chinese New Year of the Pig. "This may not be dramatic at all," she said, "but it shows my personality and I love it!"

TORI SPELLING

HOLLYWOOD ACTRESS TORI Spelling's pug Mimi La Rue lives the Hollywood good life wrapped in designer duds. "She works with a designer called Little Lily," Spelling earlier told Giant magazine.

TAIL TALES

Actress and dog met seven years ago at a pet store, when Spelling wasn't even looking for a pooch. "My boyfriend at the time wanted a pug," Spelling—now married to Dean McDermott—explained to LA's The Pet Press. "And there was this little tiny runt of the litter, a girl pug. I held her and that was it." Tori has been photographed walking Mimi La Rue in a pet stroller (see photo) provided for the pictorial in People Magazine by JustPetStrollers.com.

KISS FOR DAD

Jackson Lee surprises his father, US actor and director Spike Lee, with a kiss during the photo call for "Miracle at St Anna," Spike's latest film, on July 3 in Rome. The movie is about black American soldiers fighting the German army in Tuscany. AFP

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OPENS JULY 11

SCREENING TIME	JULY 11 WEDNESDAY	JULY 12 THURSDAY	JULY 13 FRIDAY	JULY 14 SATURDAY	JULY 15 SUNDAY	JULY 16 MONDAY	JULY 17 TUESDAY
11:00 AM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	FEW SEATS	FEW SEATS	OPEN	OPEN
2:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
5:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
8:00 PM	SOLD OUT	FEW SEATS	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
11:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN

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METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104
SAN MIGUEL Pure Foods IMAX THEATRE
SPIDER-MAN 3 8:00PM Admission Prices: P 350
T-REX 1:00PM 4:30PM Admission Prices: P 200
ANT BULLY 2:30PM 6:00PM Admission Prices: P 250
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 TIYANAKS
6 PARAISO

PREMIERE CINEMA
DIE HARD 4
CENTERSTAGE
TRANSFORMERS
THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
DIE HARD 4
CINEMA 2
TRANSFORMERS
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 DIE HARD 4
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 FANTASTIC FOUR
9 PARAISO
10 TIYANAKS
11 TRANSFORMERS
12 TRANSFORMERS

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 DIE HARD 4
2 PARAISO
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 TRANSFORMERS
7 NEXT
8 FANTASTIC FOUR
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 TRANSFORMERS
11 TRANSFORMERS
12 TIYANAKS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 PARAISO
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 DIE HARD 4
7 DIE HARD 4
8 TIYANAKS
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 TRANSFORMERS
11 TRANSFORMERS
12 NEXT

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 DIE HARD 4
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 TIYANAKS
6 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 PARAISO
9 FANTASTIC FOUR
10 NEXT

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 PARAISO
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 TIYANAKS

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TIYANAKS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4
5 DIE HARD 4
6 DIE HARD 4
7 PARAISO
8 TRANSFORMERS
9 NEXT

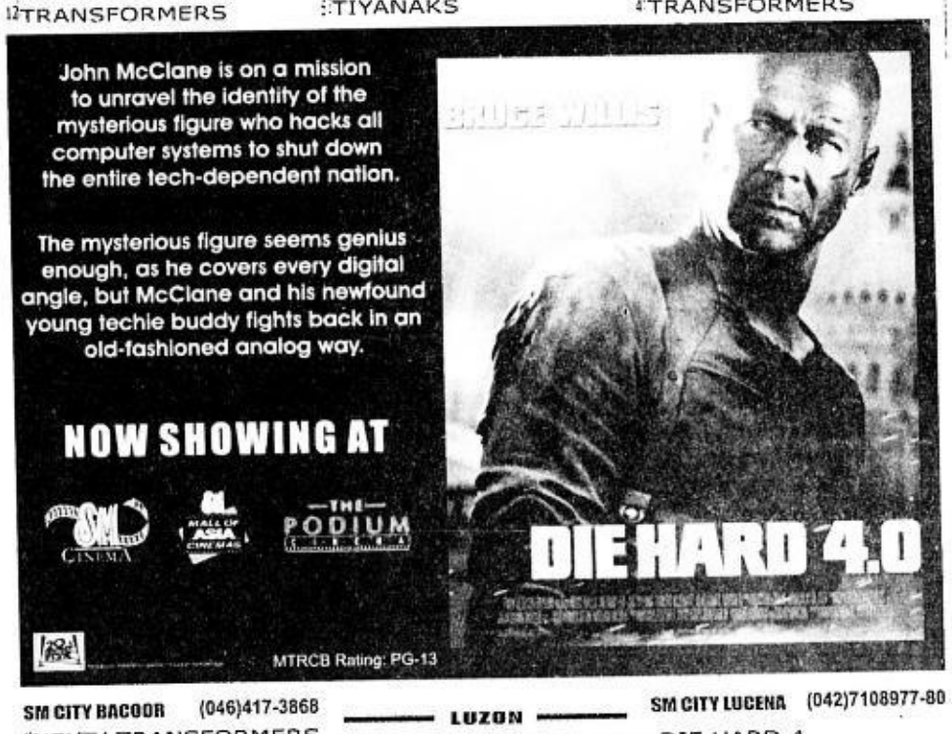
SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TIYANAKS
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 NEXT
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 DIE HARD 4
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 PARAISO
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 TRANSFORMERS
11 TIYANAKS
12 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TIYANAKS
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TIYANAKS
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 TIYANAKS
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS



SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 NEXT/ TRANSFORMERS
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4
5 TIYANAKS
6 PARAISO
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 DIE HARD 4
5 TIYANAKS
6 PARAISO

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TIYANAKS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS/ MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TIYANAKS

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4
5 PARAISO
6 TIYANAKS

SM CIY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TIYANAKS

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS/THE SHOOTER
3 TIYANAKS
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TIYANAKS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TIYANAKS

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TIYANAKS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 DIE HARD 4
2 PARAISO
3 FANTASTIC FOUR/ DIE HARD 4
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 TIYANAKS
6 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TIYANAKS
4 DIE HARD 4

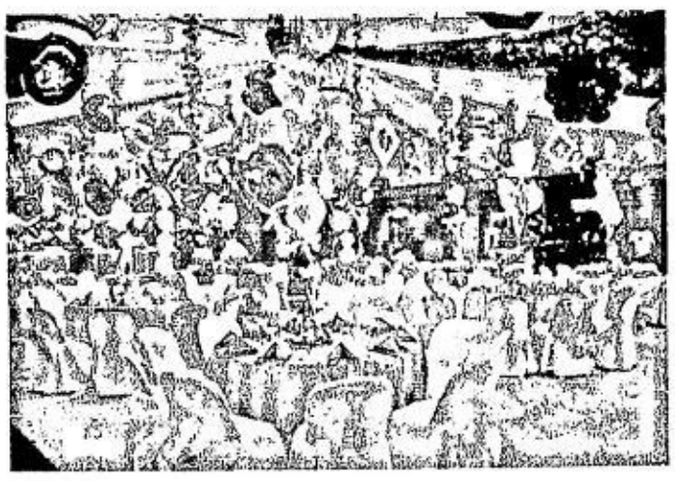
VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 INVISIBLES
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TIYANAKS
5 DIE HARD 4
6 TRANSFORMERS
7 RESERVED
8 PARAISO

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 PARAISO
6 TIYANAKS
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY DACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS4
3 TIYANAKS
4 TRANSFORMERS

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA



SABINA'S choice: "Dora the Explorer" theme

B-DAY girl squeals with delight.

PARTY! PARTY!

THE SANTIAGOS, surrounded by friends, in a party that can be described as a smash hit.

Sabina's bubble bash

By Rayani San Diego Jr.
Photos courtesy of Heidi Lu

THERE WERE NOT ENOUGH TABLES," RECALLS proud dad Raymart Santiago. "Claudine (Barretto, his wife) was worried that we might not fill up the place, but all our friends turned up."

The third birthday party of the couple's daughter, Sabina Natasha, was a smash.

Raymart says they were expecting 150 guests, but 300 made it to the venue at the ground floor of the Philippine Stock Exchange building in Ortigas on June 23, two days after the little girl's actual birthday.

The place was spruced up by Claudine's friend, party planner Heidi Lu of Balloon Creations, to fit the "Dora the Explorer" theme.

"Dora is Sabina's current favorite cartoon character," Raymart relates. "It used to be Barney. Claudine and I have memorized all of Dora's songs."

Claudine and Heidi spent over a month going over the details of the party.

"Sabina had so much fun playing with her classmates and neighborhood park *barkada*," says Raymart.

Highlight of the bash was when dad and daughter stepped onto a machine that blew up a bubble to envelop them.

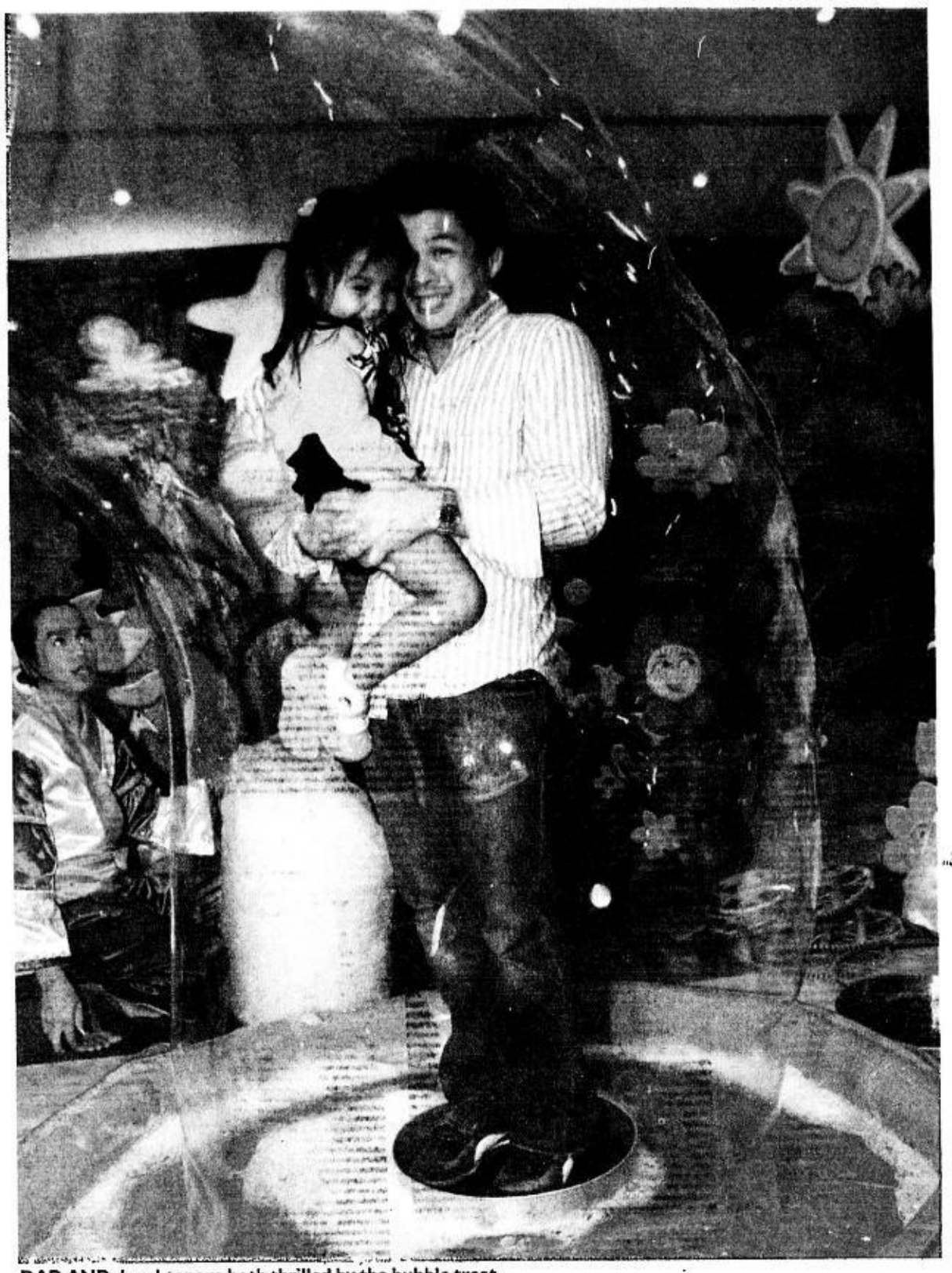
"Sabina loves bubbles," the proud dad explains. "That's why we made it a point to have a bubble machine at the party."

The very preggy Claudine, looking like she was just about to pop, was busy welcoming friends and their kids.

"Claudine and I agreed that kids should have big parties on their first, third and seventh birthdays only," Raymart says, noting that Sabina's first celebration was six times bigger than this one. "That was held in the ballroom of a five-star hotel."

It was important for them to celebrate the girl's birthday this year, "so she'll feel extra-special, now that Claudine is about to give birth."

They've not detected signs of jealousy in Sabina, though. In fact, Raymart says, she is looking forward to the birth of her baby brother Rodrigo Santino. "Sabina helped us decorate the baby's room. She even tried out the crib!"



DAD AND daughter are both thrilled by the bubble treat.

WHO'S enjoying this the most— Sabina, Raymart or Claudine?

CLAUDINE with friend Mylene Dizon

AIKO Melendez, center, brought daughter Marthena.

JODI Sta. Maria-Lacson brought son Thirdie

NASH Aguas, Rica Peralejo and Nika de la Cruz

JENNYLYN Mercado

MANNY Valera

LILY Monteverde

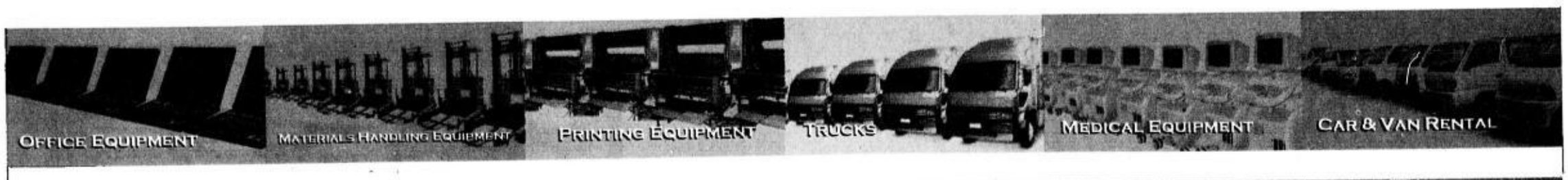
'Tiyanaks' crowd

LIVING Stars was around when director Mark Reyes' first horror movie, "Tiyanaks" premiered on July 4 at the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

"Tiyanaks," produced by Regal Entertainment, tells of the horrific encounter of a group of friends with *tiyanaks* or newborn babies who transform into monsters capable of devouring humans.

The audience included lead stars Rica Peralejo, Jennylyn Mercado, Mark Herras, and Lotlot de Leon, as well as Regal matriarch Lily Monteverde and Angelika dela Cruz, who came in support of her younger sister, cast member Mika. "Tiyanaks" is on its first-week run in local theaters. *Marinel R. Cruz*

ANDREI Felix, Lotlot de Leon, Tj Trinidad and Nash Aguas



ORIX METRO: Your Partner in Progress

By Roberto D. Balinado

You are a fish trader from General Santos. Everyday at the break of dawn you wait at the fish landing area to buy freshly-caught tuna from the local deep sea trawler fishermen. You need a mid-sized truck equipped with 2 fish-cargo-boxes laden with ice to ferry your fish to Butuan and Cagayan de Oro and it needs to get there still fresh. Or you could be the vegetable grower in Bukidnon who needs to take his farm produce to Tacloban on a weekly basis or the bangus wholesaler from Dagupan who regularly supplies this variety to Manila restaurants. You could also be the Mactan rock supplier in Cebu shipping his goods to Manila buyers in huge volumes. In fact, you could be anybody in some small town needing a truck to carry out your business.

You visit your neighborhood used-truck dealer and there, you find this mid-sized truck, used and as-is, from some Asian country, which locals popularly call "surplus". You find out it is priced between P450,000 to P580,000 but you can only afford to shell out P200,000 as you need the rest of your money as revolving capital. You are working on a budget as tight as your 1960's jeans, so how can you have that truck? Well, this is the most frequently asked question any countryside businessman would ask himself – but then so with a host of others also needing to have their truck acquisition financed.

ORIX METRO gives you the answer to this – whoever you may be, whatever you do and wherever you are situated in the Philippine archipelago.

Although yet established in 1977, ORIX METRO (then Consolidated ORIX Leasing & Finance Corporation) was not so aggressive in extending credit beyond Metro Manila until 1993 when it revitalized its lending window in Cebu, where it had previously set up its first provincial branch way back in 1980. The move came at a time when the regional economies in Asia fared better than the rest of the world in terms of growth and outlook. The Philippines was no exception as it rode on the crest of this Asian phenomenon.

Spurred by the legislated easing of importation tariffs on used trucks and heavy equipment, the country then saw a surge of so-called "surplus" equipment, mostly for transport and construction. Sales were at an unprecedented high especially in the provinces where the economic activities were more pronounced. But the downside to all these was the lack of financing for installment sales. Banks and other financial institutions shied away from financing such assets, particularly trucks, citing among others, their lack of technical appraisal expertise, the high credit risk of this particular market segment as well as an overall preference for the traditional brand new motor vehicle financing.

ORIX METRO, astute in recognizing opportunities, took this cue and immediately filled this vacuum when it began accepting used trucks and heavy equipment for financing and leasing. Meanwhile as there was also the need to complement the countryside presence of its former partner Solidbank, the company soon opened 3 more branches with Davao and Cagayan de Oro in 1994 and Dagupan in northern Luzon, in 1996. By end of 1997, it had 5 provincial branches and had even hoped to expand more until the Asian financial crisis suddenly struck. For a while, all expansion plans were put on hold.

Despite the initial setback, the company performed better than the rest in the market as its past due loans were maintained at very minimal levels easily besting industry standards at the time. Encouraged by this resilience and adaptability, it soon soft-pedaled back into the countryside with the establishment of 2 more branches in 2002.

By 2003, with the backing of the country's largest bank, Metrobank (which acquired Solidbank in 2000), the company, now known as ORIX METRO, took an even more aggressive countryside posturing by opening 9 more provincial branches.

Today it has a total of 24 countryside branches, with 6 more to be opened by the end of this year – making it *THE financing and leasing company with the widest coverage nationwide in terms of branch network.* The Luzon branches include Laoag, Santiago (Isabela), Tuguegarao, Cabanatuan, Dagupan, Angeles, Subic Malolos, Calamba, Batangas, Cavite and Naga. In the Visayas, the company maintains offices in Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo and Tacloban. In Mindanao, ORIX METRO branches can be found in Cagayan de Oro, Butuan, Valencia, Pagadian, Davao, Digos, General Santos and Tagum. The company will soon open offices in Baguio, Tarlac, Zamboanga and Balintawak in Quezon City.

So next time you get to travel by land between General Santos and Davao or cross that long stretch between Liloan, southern Leyte and Allen, northern Samar or that long climb from Calamba, Laguna to Aparri in Cagayan and oh yes, that bumpy corridor between Pagadian, Zamboanga del Sur and Iligan, Lanao del Norte, stop at a gas station. Look around for a while. Then inquire with any passing truck driver if he had his vehicle financed and chances are, if it was, it would have been by ORIX METRO (as proven by statistics showing that 8 out of 10 trucks that plied the Bukidnon-Cagayan de Oro road were financed by ORIX METRO).

As more and more businessmen realized the growing market outside Metro Manila, major equipment suppliers have likewise taken advantage of our branch network to service their provincial clients. These include medical equipment dealers, office,computer and other IT equipment suppliers, forklift companies and the like who have tied up with ORIX METRO to take advantage of its strategically-located branches.

While we continue to enjoy the patronage of major multinational and large local companies who are our major clients at our Makati Head office ,we at ORIX METRO take our social responsibility in the development of the countryside economy seriously by continuing to provide financing support to truckers, cargo haulers, farmers, fish traders, rice and corn millers and other rural entrepreneurs. And this time too, it comes at a more geographically comprehensive coverage than any other leasing and finance company in its category with its substantial number of branches.

In June last year, ORIX METRO's socio-economic contribution to countryside development was recognized by no less than the premier government countryside lender - the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) when the latter gave ORIX METRO a Special Citation as the *MOST ACTIVE* COUNTRYSIDE PARTNER IN PROVIDING DEVELOPMENTAL LINKAGES.

Having said that, we can now proudly say that ORIX METRO, now on its 30th year of operations locally, has not only been part of the economic growth of certain market segments but also of the broader spectrum of the national economy.

And that, to a company which is constantly striving for excellence, is what matters most.

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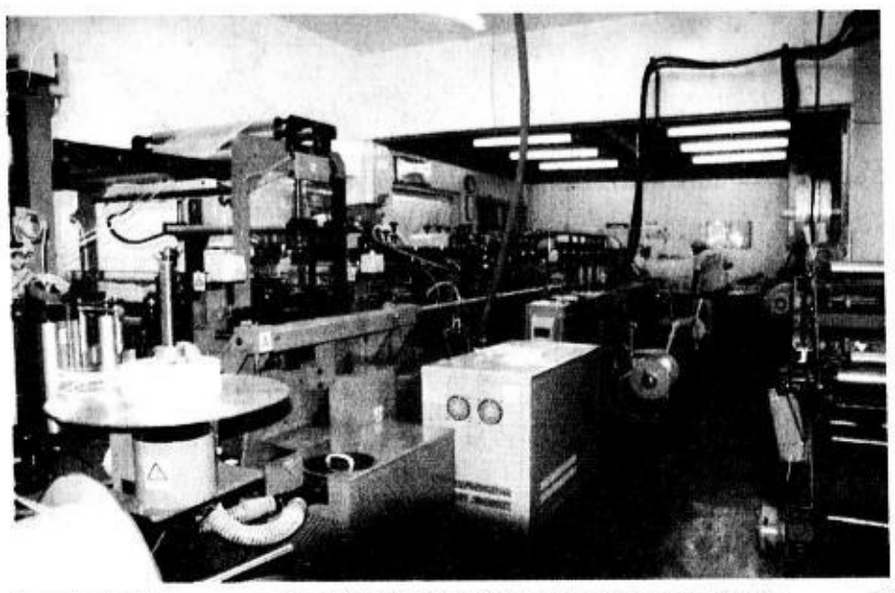

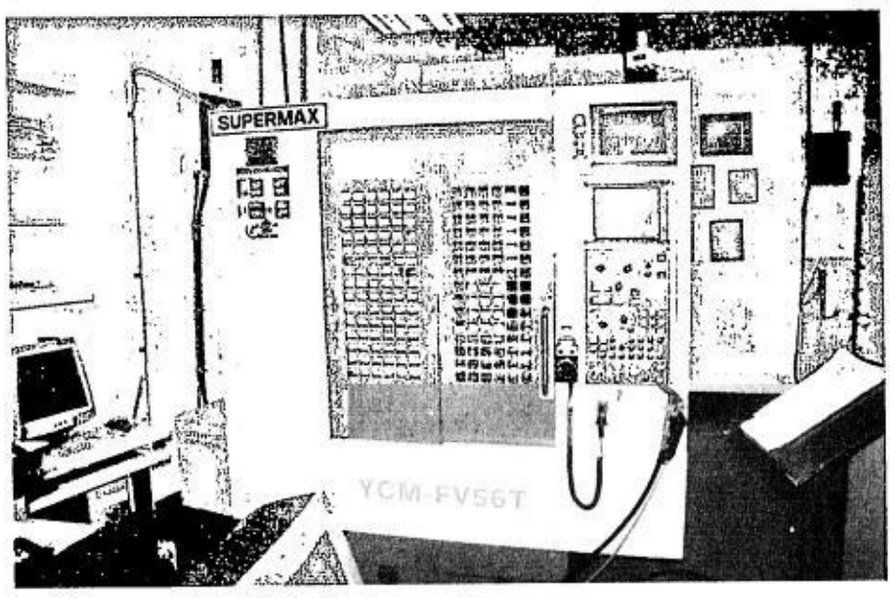

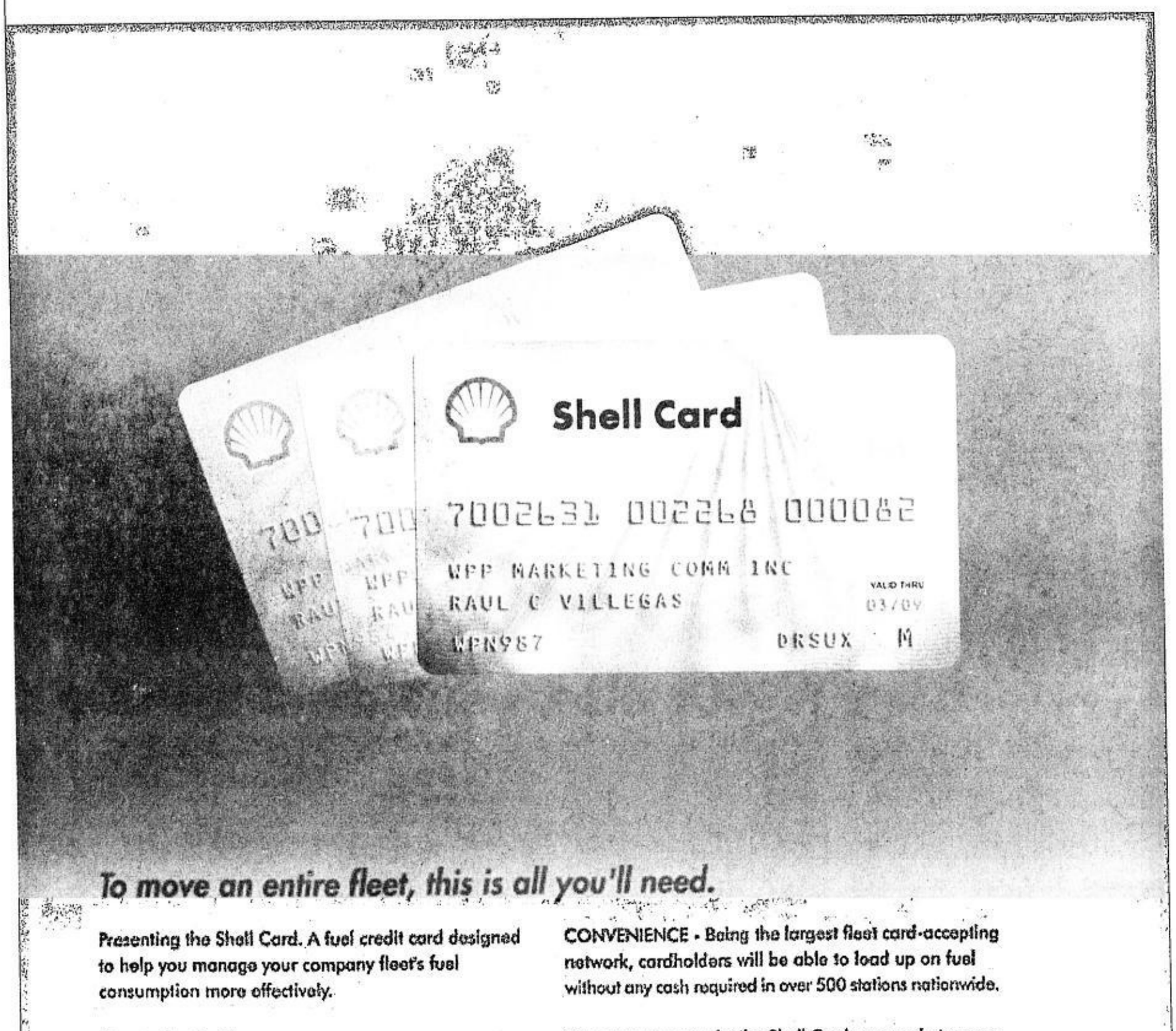

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Made to move

Driving new market opportunities

By Marlet D. Salazar

ORIX METRO Leasing and Finance Corporation, following its cue from its major stockholders, ORIX Corp. of Japan, and the country's largest bank, Metrobank, continues to strengthen its foundation for medium and long-term growth.

On its 30th year, ORIX METRO has grown "by leaps and bounds" reporting a 36 percent increase in after tax net income for fiscal year 2006 from the previous year's P116.3 million, according to Eduardo Alvarez, President and CEO of ORIX METRO.

The growth is bolstered by the opening of more branches nationwide, launching of innovative products and services to its broad market segments, and the strong showing of the industry.

ORIX METRO also reported a 21 percent return on average equity up from 16 percent in 2005. Its total assets stood at P4.7 billion-up by 16 percent, brought about by the increase in net lease and loans receivables.

The surge in growth is attributed to the overwhelming demand for Operating Leases among multinationals as well as loans in the countryside by small and medium enterprises. Alvarez believes that the firm's nationwide presence gives them an edge among other companies offering the same services. Tapping the rural market proved to be beneficial not only to ORIX METRO but to its clients as well. The move enabled them to expand their own businesses which in turn contributed greatly to the progress in the local economy.

It was awarded as the Most Active Partner in the Countryside by no less than the LandBank of the Philippines last year in recognition of its contribution in providing assistance to countryside-based projects.

ORIX METRO operates its businesses through its four wholly-owned subsidiaries: ORIX Rental Corporation, ORIX Auto Leasing Phils., OMLF International Trading and Development Corporation, and OMLF Insurance Agency Inc.

GROWING TREND

ORIX Rental and ORIX Auto Leasing basically deal with short- or long-term leases of equipment and vehicles respectively, mostly for multinational companies. Orix Auto Leasing now boasts of a fleet of close to a thousand cars which began only with barely a hundred units two years ago.

MR. EDUARDO ALVAREZ
President and CEO of ORIX METRO

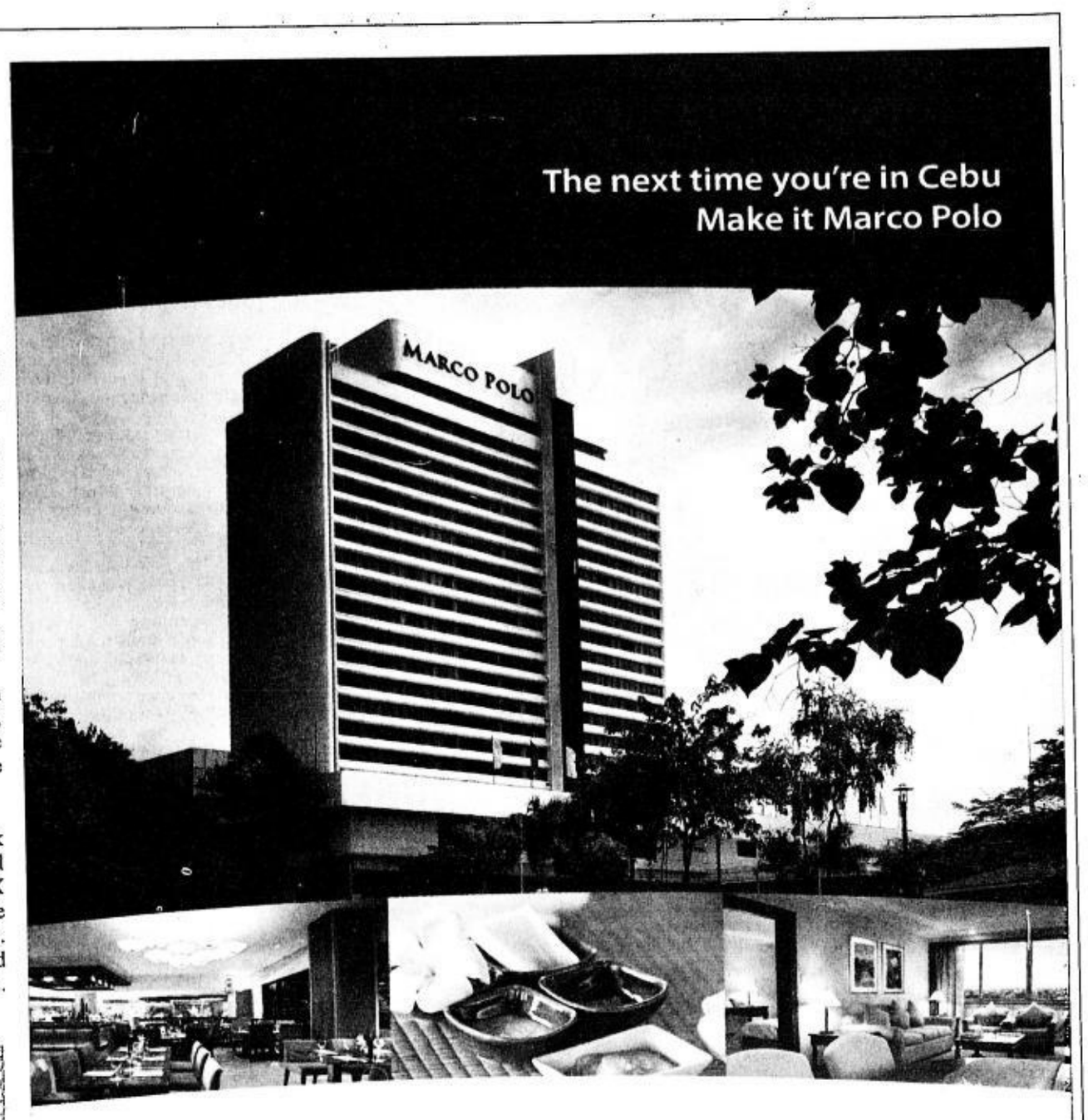
Another subsidiary, OMLF International Trading and Development Corporation, deals in real estate leasing largely for commercial or industrial use. Clients are mainly multinational companies.

ORIX METRO is also an exclusive financier of all auctioneers selling second-hand trucks and equipment in Subic, Olongapo, and Malinta, Bulacan.

With Metrobank's 542 branches spread out all over the Philippines, ORIX METRO is able to reach to more clients. At present, ORIX METRO has 24 branches, and before the year ends, the company targets to open six more. This year the company has added its presence in Malolos, Bulacan, Imus, Cavite, Tagum, Davao del Norte, and Tuguegarao, Cagayan.
With Metrobank and ORIX Corporation of Japan as its major shareholders, ORIX METRO is optimistic of the continuing growth in business in the coming years.

With such support from the largest bank in the country and the largest financial services company in Japan, ORIX METRO's sights are set to capture major markets in the Philippines. "We will continue our competitive and excellent service," Alvarez said.

The recently opened ORIX METRO branch in Malolos, Bulacan.



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Meeting Growing Opportunities in a Diverse Market

By Marlet D. Salazar

Being one of the largest leasing companies in the country, ORIX METRO Leasing and Finance Corporation continuously innovates to give better service and offer a whole range of options to its clients nationwide.

Bernadette Astudillo, senior vice president of ORIX METRO, said the company wants to cover as many areas in a diverse market as possible which are slowly realizing the advantages of leasing, both Operating and Financial.

With existing products like Operating and Financial Lease, Mortgage Loans, and Installment Paper Purchase (IPP), it is now looking at exploring more market opportunities with emerging industries in the fields of business processes outsourcing, energy, mining , construction and even real estate.

These products are offered both for corporate accounts as well as for individual or consumer accounts.

Operating and Financial Lease offers asset or equipment acquisitions from manufacturing and industrial machinery to transportation and office equipment.

Mortgage Loans covers trucks, other vehicles and all types of heavy equipment.

IPP is a type of receivables financing package that largely serves the longer-term requirements of clients.

While Operating Lease continues to flourish, ORIX METRO still wants to "fine-tune it upon discovering that many clients in other untapped areas are interested", according to Astudillo who is in-charge of the company's Account Management Group. "We are also being approached by many vendors of equipment seeking our assistance in selling their products by making our finance and leasing schemes available nationwide", she added.

"Last year was our banner year because of call centers and the emerging business processes outsourcing firms", Astudillo said. And she is optimistic that the same effect will still be felt this year.

Entrepreneurs in the provinces

Having the biggest nationwide branch network among the major leasing and financing firms works well with the diverse products and services offered by ORIX METRO according to Roberto Balinado, Vice President, who is in charge of the ORIX METRO branches all over the country.

He specifically mentions the growing demand for medical equipment in the countryside aside from the upgrading of vehicles by existing clients and emerging entrepreneurs. In the branches, about 80-90 percent are individual or consumer borrowers.

The regions that have been performing well the past years are Mindanao as well as Northern & Southern Luzon where most businesses require hauling of goods and commodities to other areas.

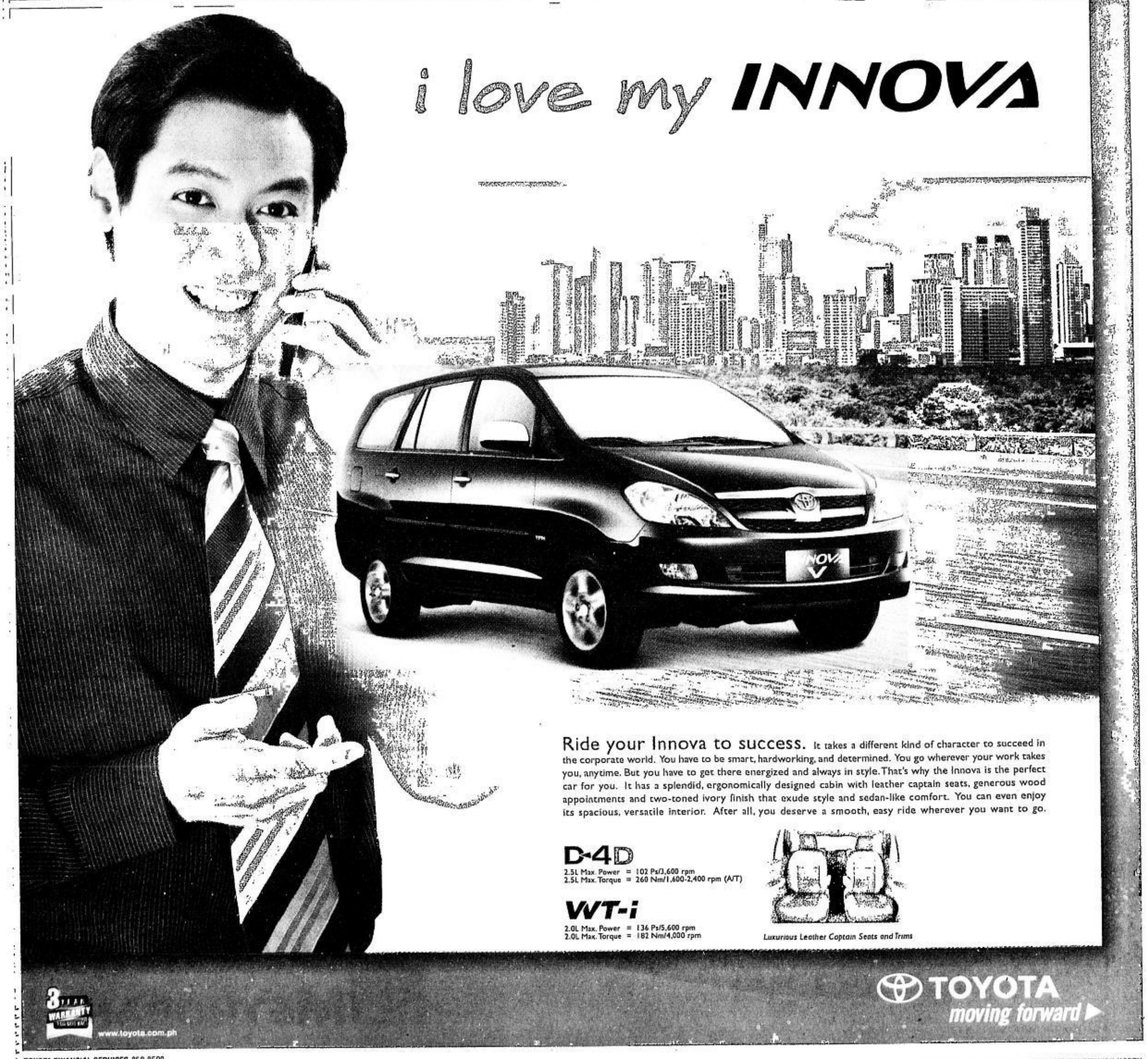
ORIX METRO Truck Financing offers mortgage loans for delivery trucks, prime movers, trailers, dump trucks, and certain types of construction-related equipment. In the provinces, clients range from farmers to established businessmen. Consumer loans can range from as low as P300,000 to about P2 million - P3 million for corporate accounts.

Balinado said the transport needs in the provinces yield higher demands not only from small entrepreneurs but also from public transport operators and contract haulers.

Aside from transportation, ORIX METRO is now testing the business of refrigeration facilities also in Mindanao. Perishable goods which come from the rural areas are warehoused in urban centers like General Santos and Davao. Refrigeration equipment, including the mobile ones housed in so-called refrigerated vans, are covered by ORIX METRO's products and services.

"We keep our eyes and ears open to know what the countryside needs so that we can possibly assist", Balinado said. Doing business in the province presents a stark contrast with that in the metropolis. Balinado said that while they still have to analyze the credit capability of the borrower, it takes an enormous amount of trust to approve countryside loans. If the prospective borrower already has an existing account, "we can approve their loan within the day".

"In a way, we are proud to help them professionalize their business", he said. The swift growth in the provinces prompted the company to explore more opportunities and bring its financial services practically at their doorsteps. The robust economy has created quite a number of entrepreneurs no matter how small the start up capital is. ORIX METRO is sure to offer reasonable market opportunities at flexible terms for both the budding businessmen as well as the established companies out there. And clients can count on the same degree of professionalism that has made the ORIX METRO's principals- ORIX Corporation of Japan and the Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company (Metrobank) well-respected names in the financial services and banking industries, respectively, both locally as well as overseas.



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